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BENGALURU
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India, New Zealand sign 'historic' free trade deal

Deal to be implemented after New Zealand Parliament ratification later this year; Prime Minister calls the agreement a milestone, says it reflects 'convergence of values, trust, and shared ambition'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India and New Zealand on Monday signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that Prime Ministers of both the countries hailed as a "historic" step towards deepening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties.

The FTA, signed by Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and his New Zealand counterpart, Todd McClay, in New Delhi, will see New Zealand removing tariffs on all goods imported from India, while India will remove or reduce tariffs on 95% of current imports from New Zealand.

"Today marks a historic milestone in India's journey towards deeper global engagement and shared prosperity," a statement read out by Mr. Goyal quoted Prime Minister Narendra Modi as saying. "The signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement reflects our strengthening economic partnership and a convergence of values, trust and shared ambition between two vibrant democracies."

This FTA, discussions for which were announced in March 2025 and concluded in December 2025, is one of the fastest India has negotiated.

The deal still needs to be ratified by New Zealand's Parliament, which Mr. McClay said would happen soon while adding that it would come into force within this year.

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Deal dynamics

The graphic lists select products on which India will be reducing or eliminating tariffs, as well as items excluded from the deal. New Zealand has removed tariffs on all items

Immediate elimination
- Wood | Wool
- Leather-raw hides

Phased elimination
- Petroleum oil
- Vegetable oils
- Select electrical machinery

Tariff reductions
- Wine and pharma
- Polymers, aluminium, iron and steel articles

Products excluded by India
- Dairy products (milk, cream, whey, yoghurt, cheese etc.)
- Animal products (other than sheep meat)
- Agricultural products (onions, chana, peas, corn, almonds etc.)
- Sugar | Artificial honey
- Copper and articles thereof (cathodes, cartridges, rods)
- Aluminium and articles thereof (ingots, billets etc.)

Sealing the deal: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, with New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment, Todd McClay, during the signing ceremony of the FTA in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Iran offers to reopen Strait of Hormuz if U.S. lifts its blockade

Associated Press
CAIRO

Iran has offered to end its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz if the U.S. lifts its blockade on the country and ends the war in a proposal that would postpone discussions on the Islamic Republic's nuclear programme, two regional officials said on Monday.

U.S. President Donald Trump seems unlikely to accept the offer, which was passed to the Americans by Pakistan and would leave unresolved the disagreements that led the U.S. and Israel to go to war on February 28. Mr. Trump has said one of the major reasons he went to war was to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

The offer emerged as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi visited Russia and met President Vladimir Putin, who, according to state news agency Tass, praised Iranian people as "bravely and heroically fighting for their sovereignty". Russia would do everything possible to bring peace to West Asia, Tass reported Mr. Putin as saying. It is unclear what, if any, assistance Moscow, which has long been a key backer of Tehran, might offer now.

Russian President Vladimir Putin with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi in St. Petersburg on Monday. AFP

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Cooker blast case: Convict sentenced to 10 years RI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has convicted and sentenced Mohammed Shariq, an alleged operative linked to the IS, to 10 years rigorous imprisonment in connection with the 2022 Mangaluru pressure cooker blast case.

The court also imposed a fine of about ₹92,000 under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and relevant sections of the IPC.

The incident occurred on November 19, 2022, at Nagori in Mangaluru, when a low-intensity IED concealed in a pressure cooker exploded while Shariq was transporting it in an autorickshaw. Both Shariq and the driver sustained injuries.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

Change of season

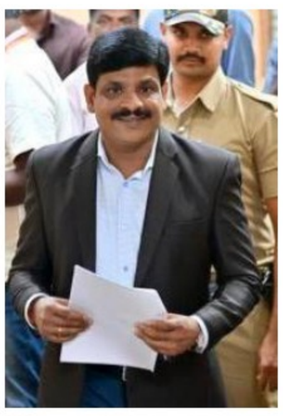
Making way: Army personnel clear snow from the premises of Gurudwara Hemkund Sahib in Chamoli, Uttarakhand, on Monday. The reopening of the shrine, scheduled for next month, marks the beginning of summer in the region. ANI

'Janivara' row: Act by college staff was intentional, says probe report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Based on the Additional Deputy Commissioner's (ADC's) report, the Bengaluru Urban district administration has decided to submit a report to the government on the recent incident of three students being stripped of their 'janivara' (sacred thread) during the CET-2026, requesting that Krupanidhi Pre-University College no longer be considered as a centre for any examinations.

Addressing pressperson on Monday, Jagadeesha G., Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru Urban, said, "The ADC-headed inquiry committee has submitted the report on the 'janivara' row. During the inquiry, *prima facie*, it was proved that the act by the college staff was intentional. Based on the report, we recommend the Karnataka Examinations Authority not to consider the college as an examination centre for any of the exams in the future."



Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban Jagadeesha G. FILE PHOTO

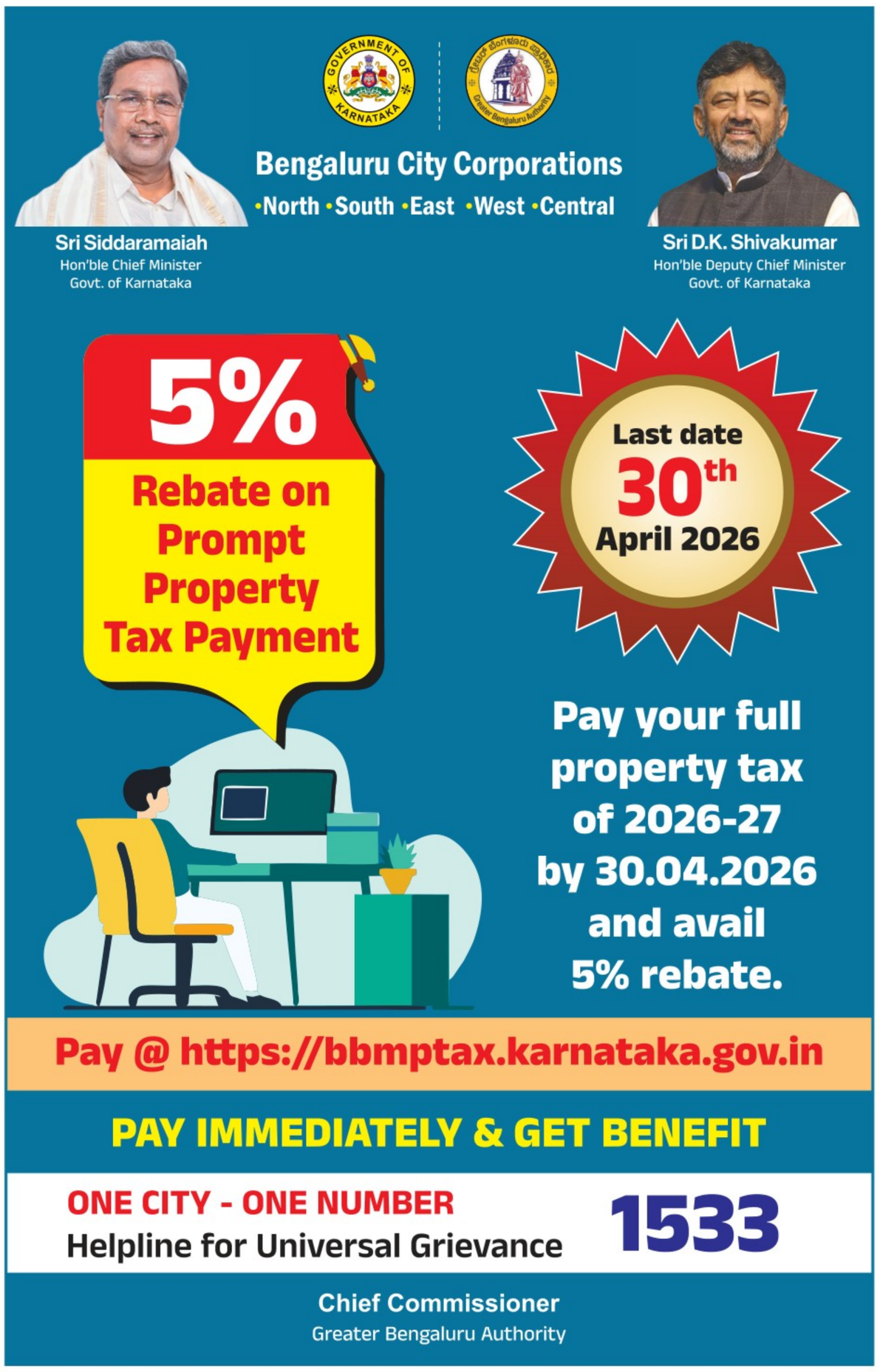
Further, he stated that despite giving the staff training on dress code and appointing a separate dress code officer, the college staff who were deputed for CET duty forced the students to remove their sacred threads. "During the inquiry, the committee verified CCTV footage, discussed with the principal, spoke to the students, parents and the examination observers, and submitted a report," he added.

Meanwhile, the committee also recommended stringent action against the staff who were involved in the incident. "The college has already suspended the staff, an FIR has been filed, and a police investigation is under way. Along with that, we are recommending stringent action against the staff," he added.

Three students who appeared for the exam at Krupanidhi Pre-University College, which is in Koramangala here, were forced to remove their sacred threads. The issue came to light on day two of the exam, with one of the parents filing a police complaint before the Madiwala Police.

The incident took a political turn with the BJP terming the Congress government in the State as anti-Hindu. Several organisations had also appealed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take action and demanded disaffiliation of the college.

Following the parents' complaint, the Madiwala Police detained all three staff members, and the college management suspended them.



Kohli, Rahul and the journey to T20 greatness

In the last three years, the RCB talisman has taken his game in the shortest format to a new level and remains a great role model in modern sport; he is also the benchmark for the Capitals' keeper-batter and the new generation

K. MURALI KUMAR & R.V. MOORTHY

R. Kaushik

Within three years of one Rahul from Karnataka calling time on a career most illustrious, another Rahul from the same state cut his teeth in international cricket. In the same country where Rahul Dravid played his final game for the country, KL Rahul made his Test debut - not a very auspicious one - in what turned out to be Mahendra Singh Dhoni's final five-day appearance.

Batting out of position at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in December 2014, the younger Rahul managed 3 in the first innings (at No. 6) and 1 in the second, when he was pushed up to No. 3. In the next game in Sydney, in Virat Kohli's first Test as full-time captain, Rahul celebrated his elevation to the opener's slot, which was where he always belonged, with a measured 110 which spanned just under six hours.

With two further hundreds in his next eight innings, both overseas - in Colombo against Sri Lanka (August 2015) and in Kingston against West Indies (July 2016) - Rahul seemed to be the answer to India's quest for a dependable, reliable Test opener. Either side of the Kingston hundred, he racked his maiden tons in One-Day Internationals (on debut) and Twenty20 Internationals (in his fourth innings) to complete the full set - international centuries in all three formats - in double quick time, becoming the fastest Indian to that milestone.

When he made an unbeaten 110 in August 2016 against West Indies in Lauderhill in a T20I to round off the troika, Rahul was only 24. The world was at his feet, it appeared, but there has been nothing straightforward about his journey thereafter.

Change of fortunes

Blighted by untimely injuries and inexplicable losses of form, Rahul's career meandered along rather than hitting the high notes it promised from the off. There was a certain exasperating consistency to his inconsistency. He possessed everything - exceptional technique, all the strokes in the book, a languid elegance that makes him such an arresting figure at the batting crease - but often seemed his worst enemy, weighed down by an inner burden that threatened to be his kryptonite.

Successive leadership groups invested heavily in him, but in both Test and T20 cricket, he seemed determined to sell himself short.

The story was different in the 50-over format where he found his calling - not like the senior Rahul - as a wicketkeeper-batter that could control the middle overs with felicity. Like his namesake from the same city, 'KL' refamiliarised himself with the role he had reprised in his school days and graduated beyond being a 'part-time' stumper, playing influential roles in India's march to final of the home World Cup in 2023 and to the Champions Trophy title in Dubai in March 2025.

By this time, Rahul had lost his place in the T20I set-up, and with good reason. An underwhelming run at the 2022 World Cup in Australia proved his undoing, but Rahul was on the way to resurrecting his Test career. He had had a middling tour of Australia with half-centuries in the victory in Perth and the draw in Brisbane, though in a sequence emblematic of his career at the time, he ended the tour with scores of 24, 0, 4 and 13.

Within a few weeks of the Champions Trophy triumph, Rohit Sharma pulled the plug on his Test career, and Rahul was pencilled into partner Yashasvi Jaiswal for the foreseeable future. His successes in England, where he made hundreds in losing causes in Leeds and at Lord's, apart from a an obdurate 90 in a match-saving cause in Manchester, were attributed to job security, if you like, but by then, Rahul had found an inner calm and a greater purpose in life that magically lifted the weight he had been carrying and freed him up mentally.

Working wonders

Fatherhood clearly has worked wonders; in March last year, he and wife Athiya were blessed with a baby girl. Cricket was no longer the be-all and end-all. His passion for the sport continued to burn bright, make no mistake, but he became more 'chill' about the game, no longer consumed by it even though he was driven enough to become the best version of himself.

The mental shift has manifested itself in Rahul 2.0, now bearing no resemblance to the ponderous young man whose dimpled smiles had become rare as hen's teeth. Beyond fatherhood, other factors have assisted in the transformation, including the realisation that he had remained stagnant as the world sped by him. The truly excellent ones are those whose best allies are introspection and brutal self-appraisal. Rahul went to the mental drawing board, identified where he needed to get better at, and here we are, Circa 2026, with KL Rahul as the owner of the highest score by an Indian in all T20s.

His monumental unbeaten 152 the other afternoon for Delhi Capitals against Punjab Kings in the sweltering heat of the national capital was the ultimate affirmation of Rahul's development as a 20-over batter. It was also evidence of the work he had put in behind the scenes to stay in touch with the modern tenets of the T20 game, where innings-building is a strict no-no and where maximising the PowerPlay has become paramount though looking at some of the batters, one would think that the field restrictions apply throughout the length of the 20 overs. Rahul matched and topped the 42-degree heat with 16 fours and nine sixes off 67 deliveries, lighting up the Arun Jaitley Stadium with his incandescence, correctness and fluency. "It's something I've been working on for a very long time behind the scenes... to just to step back a little back and see where the T20 game has gone," he admitted.

Mental set-up

"Watching the T20 World Cup and some guys coming in... There was a time when the T20 game was slightly different, and I, as an opener, could take my time. But today's demand is that the first six overs are the most important. I had to sit back and see where I was at. I stuck to being true to my game. In T20 cricket, that's the mindset I'm in right now - that there's no time to say later. There's no time to think you can go next over. I've had to work really hard on my mental set-up."

Last year, Rahul spoke of the mental work he had done in Salzburg in Austria, the headquarters of Red Bull with whom he is associated. "I have spent a bit of time with an expert who can help me with improving my reaction time and some mental drills and games that you can play that help you get better with your reaction time," he had revealed. "I had the opportunity to work with some of the coaches that work with the elite Formula One guys and other adventure sports people who require a lot of this mental side of the game." That testifies to the hunger, if not the desperation, to keep getting better, a trait that is second nature to one of the greats of the game who is now on the last but still strong and steady legs of a career most extraordinary.

Rich cabinet

There are very few highs that Kohli hasn't experienced. He has been part of World Cup-winning sides in both the 50-over and T20 formats, crowning the latter with the Player-of-the-Final performance in his last 20-over fixture for the country. He has been in more than one Champions Trophy-winning side, oversaw the transformation of Indian cricket with his emphasis on fast bowling and uncompromising fitness standards and ensured that his colleagues treated every Test match, especially, as a home Test by refusing to dwell on pitches.

His contribution to the sport in the country and beyond is unquantifiable. He now plays only one format internationally, potentially with an eye on the 50-over World Cup in the Africas late next year, but he isn't just biding time or looking to rest on bountiful past laurels.

Kohli finished his international T20 career with impressive numbers - 4,188 runs, average 48.69, strike-rate 137.04. There were some question marks over the last figure, but Kohli played much of his 20-over cricket for the country when team totals of 200 weren't anywhere near the norm and there was a more conservative approach to the format. In the IPL, his strike-rate hovered around the last 120s, not flash by any stretch of the imagination. Indeed, until the start of the 2024 edition, he struck at more than 150 runs for 100 balls faced just once in 16 seasons - in 2016 when he amassed a staggering 973 runs with four centuries (SR 152.03).

But in the last three years, he has taken his T20 game to a whole new level, and that is saying something. Just a few days before the start of the T20 World Cup in 2024, he upped his strike rate in the IPL to 154.70; last season, it stood at 144.71 and this year, ahead of Monday's showdown against Delhi Capitals, the former Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain boasted 163.18 at an average of 81, remarkable considering that he is a very young 37.

Kohli is the benchmark for Rahul, and for generations thereafter - for the likes of Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan and Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya, and the dynamic Rajasthan Royals duo of Jaiswal and the ridiculously prodigious 15-year-old, Vaibhav Suryavanshi.

Intensity and hunger

That, this late in his career, Kohli has not just felt the need but found the magic to up the ante is credit to his intensity and hunger, to the high standards he sets for himself, for the desire to prove to himself more than anyone else that he doesn't just belong to the T20 landscape, he can still be the master even as much younger protagonists are snapping at his heels.

Kohli has seldom tried to meet the expectations of others. No one is harsher on himself, and his sustained commitment to fitness and discipline when it comes to diet and looking after his body are beyond enviable. He has what fellow Delhiite Vijay Dahiya calls *zidd* - which can translate to stubbornness, persistence, obstinacy. This *zidd* is a positive in this instance, insists the former India stumper, who says the only person to whom Kohli wants to prove a point is the 'man in the mirror'. Teammates and opponents are in awe of his focus, his professionalism and his desire to keep becoming better every day. If there is a greater role model in modern sport, that person has done a remarkable job of concealing their identity.

THE GIST

- Blighted by untimely injuries and inexplicable losses of form, Rahul's career meandered along rather than hitting the high notes it promised from the off
- The monumental unbeaten 152 for Delhi Capitals against Punjab Kings in the sweltering heat of the national capital was the ultimate affirmation of Rahul's development as a 20-over batter
- Kohli has seldom tried to meet the expectations of others. No one is harsher on himself, and his sustained commitment to fitness and discipline when it comes to diet and looking after his body are beyond enviable

Garbage black spots on rise amid new solid waste management rules

The issue is compounded by administrative issues that have resulted in irregular waste collection, forcing citizens to litter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Many households that previously handed over unsegregated waste to collection vehicles are now resorting to littering, leading to an increase in black spots across the city. FILE PHOTO

Beside the bus stand in front of Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in south Bengaluru, a heap of garbage has been causing misery to hospital visitors and daily commuters.

"It's been there for months. Even after multiple complaints, it hasn't been cleared," said the hospital's security guard. According to officials, despite regular cleaning, the garbage keeps reappearing.

With the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) attempting to enforce the new solid waste management rules, the city is witnessing an up-tick in garbage black spots.

The issue is further compounded by administrative issues that have resulted in irregular waste collection, forcing citizens to resort to rampant littering.

Under the new SWM rules, the BSWML has strictly directed waste collection tippers to refrain from collecting non-segregated waste. As a result, many households that previously handed over unsegregated waste to collection vehicles are now resorting to littering, leading to an increase in black spots across the city.

"The new rules mandate segregating waste into four categories (dry, wet, sanitary, and special care). However, we are currently asking citizens to segregate at least dry and wet waste, yet this is not being followed," an official from the South Corporation told *The Hindu*. "It requires a collective effort to keep the city clean. While we can address the issue to a certain extent, citizens must also do their part," they added.

Along with traditional black spots witnessing large-scale dumping, new black spots have emerged. Additionally, locations that were previously cleared and maintained as waste-free are now seeing black spots reappearing.

For example, on Siddapura road, used by thousands of commuters daily, a strong stench persists. Several waste collection vehicles are parked along the stretch, with sludge from the tippers spilling onto the road and worsening the situation.

A shopkeeper nearby said, "The garbage here is cleaned three times a week. People have complained multiple times, but nothing has changed. Complaints are registered, but no one follows up. We have urged citizens not to dump waste along this stretch, yet nothing has changed."

In Adugodi, Chikka Lakshmaiah Road, already a narrow stretch, is often half-covered with garbage every morning. At times, parallel roads are cleared while this road is neglected. Rama, a resident, said that garbage collection happens only three times a week.

In some stretches, irregular clearance of black spots has made commuting difficult. For instance, on the Outer Ring Road near Silk Board Junction, an unbearable stench persists for about 100 metres towards the entrance of the double-decker flyover.

The black spot situation is similar in hotspots such as ITPL Road in east Bengaluru and the double road near GKVK in Yelahanka.

According to NammaKasa, a website dedicated to reporting black spots, there are about 2,936 active black spots in the city. Among them, 909 are classified as severe and 566 as critical.

However, civic authorities are clearing some hotspots regularly. For instance, Ejipura Main Road, which has at least 10 black spots along the stretch, is now being cleaned daily. Yet, garbage reappears every night.

While BSWML officials point to poor source segregation, several citizens have highlighted lapses on the part of the civic body.

Suresh M., a resident of S.G. Palya, pointed out that the civic body has not addressed irregular waste collection even as it pushes for new rules. "Where are people supposed to dispose of their waste, especially wet waste, when collection is irregular. Will they take responsibility?" he questioned.

In some areas, such as Malleshpalya under the Central Corporation and ITPL in east Bengaluru, waste collection has reportedly been disrupted for over a week. In fact, during a public meeting in the East Corporation, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao acknowledged similar issues and ordered an immediate inspection, directing officials to submit a report.

A senior civic official acknowledged the irregularities and said that the GBA is implementing measures to address the problem.

"The main issue was irregular payments to workers, as bill clearances were made to contractors in bulk rather than on a monthly basis. In a recent meeting, corporations were directed to clear BSWML bills every month, and BSWML was instructed to ensure timely payments to contractors," the official said.

(Inputs from Pratyusha Srivastav.)

'Innovation is an urgent need in higher education'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vice-Chancellor Vishwanatha, Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, and former member of the Rajya Sabha B.L. Mungekar during BASE University's second annual convocation day in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"The need for innovation in higher education is not a long-range luxury; it is a near-term urgency with long-term consequences," said B.L. Mungekar, former member of the Planning Commission of India and former member of the Rajya Sabha.

In his convocation address at the second annual convocation day of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University, Bengaluru, held on Monday, he said, "Innovation in higher education is necessary and urgent; the practical question is how to make it happen. Reform on this scale cannot be left to inspirational speeches, isolated model institutions, or sporadic pilot projects. It requires a coordinated action framework in which policy, finance, institutional leadership, faculty incentives, industry engagement, and social expectations move in alignment. Among all the innovations required in higher education, entrepreneurship development deserves special emphasis. This is not because every student must become a founder or a businessman, but because entrepreneurial capability represents a deeper orientation towards initiative, problem solving, value creation, and ownership," he said.

Mr. Mungekar stated that India's unemployment and underemployment challenges cannot be addressed solely through the expansion of conventional jobs. "A country producing millions of graduates cannot rely only on placement-led success models. Higher education must equip a larger number of young people to create enterprises, local solutions, social ventures, and self-sustaining livelihoods," he said.

M.C. Sudhakar, Higher Education Minister, said that a special programme called 'Campus to Career' is being organised on May 15 and 16 to provide skill-based education, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship pathways to students.

Six students were conferred with gold medals. In addition, 17 rank certificates and 171 degree certificates were presented.

Woman, daughter found dead in pond

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old woman and her minor daughter were found dead after allegedly drowning in a farm pond in Lakshmisagara village in Anekal due to a domestic row on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Lavanya and her daughter Lakshita, 8. According to the police, Lavanya had married a farmer from the same village in 2017. The circumstances surrounding the deaths have raised suspicion, with the woman's parents alleging possible foul play.

Based on the complaint filed by the family, the Suryanagar police have registered a case of suspicious death. Police officials stated that the pond was around 7-10 feet deep. The incident reportedly took place on Saturday evening, and the police were informed around 7 p.m.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

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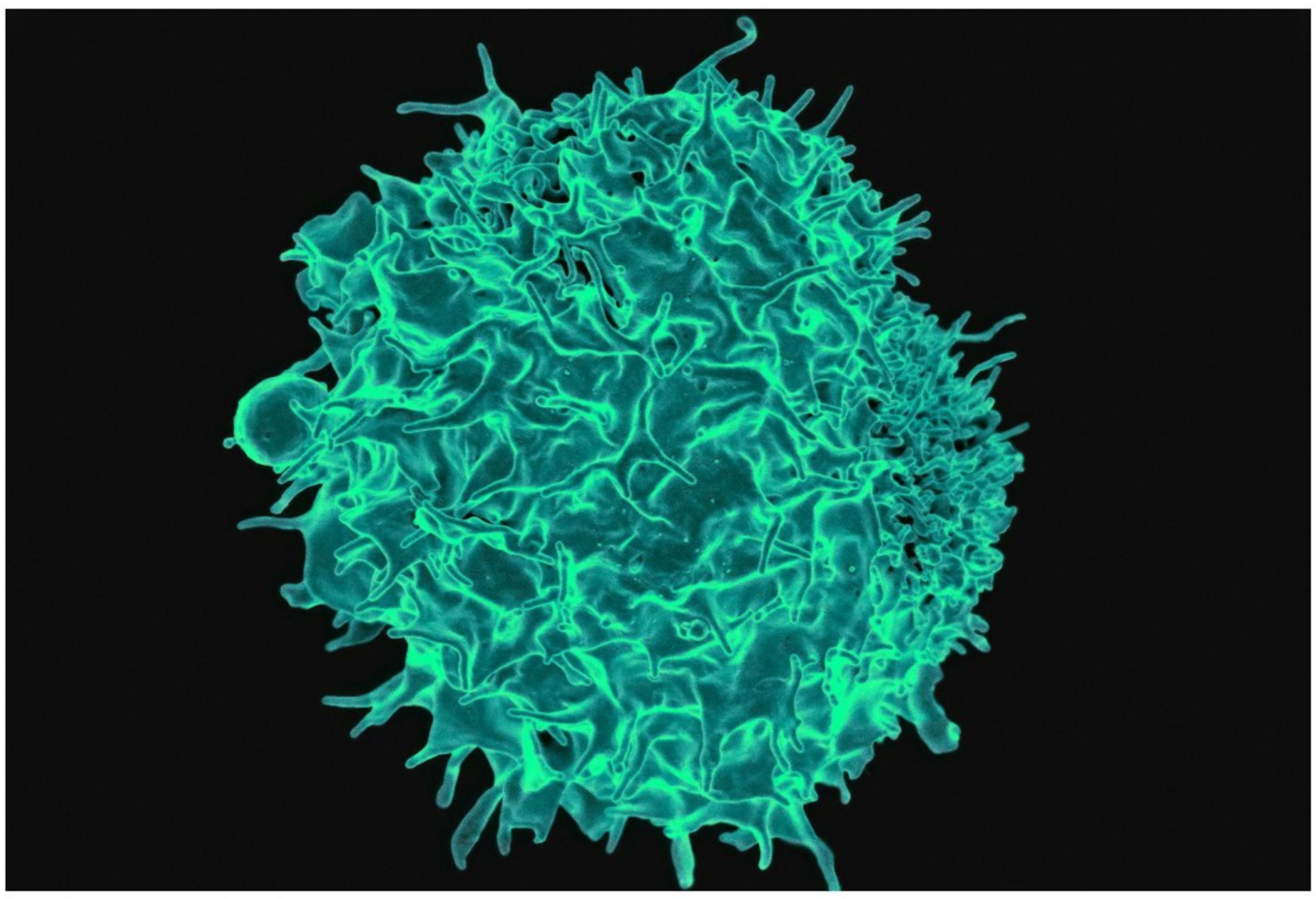
A BG-BGE

CAR-T cell therapy senses 'faint' targets to clear solid tumours

Scientists have developed a highly sensitive receptor that can detect trace amounts of proteins on solid tumours, overcoming a major biological hurdle to using CAR T-cell therapy against cancers such as kidney or ovarian cancer; this can help eliminate previously undetectable tumour cells

Anirban Mukhopadhyay



In CAR T-cell therapy, a patient's T cells (one shown) are isolated, engineered to target specific cancer cells, then reinfused to mount their attack. NIAID/UNSPLASH

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, an approach that modifies a patient's own immune cells to hunt down cancer, has transformed treatment for blood cancers such as leukaemia and lymphoma. But the same strategy has struggled when applied to solid tumours such as kidney or ovarian cancer.

One of the biggest obstacles is antigen heterogeneity. Tumours are not made of identical cells. Instead, they resemble a patchwork: some cells display the protein that CAR-T cells detect while others appear to lack it. CAR-T cells only destroy 'visible' targets, so the invisible cells survive and allow the cancer to grow back.

Now, a study published in *Science* on February 26 has suggested these supposedly invisible cells may not be invisible after all. Many tumour cells thought to lack the target protein actually carry small amounts – too little for current CAR-T cells to detect.

The hidden protein

The study conducted by researchers in Columbia University and the Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in New York focused on a protein called CD70. It is expressed by the tumours in about 70-80% of kidney and ovarian cancers and roughly a quarter of pancreatic cancers, making it an attractive target for immune therapy.

But in real world scenarios, some cells carry large quantities of CD70 while others appear negative in standard laboratory tests.

The researchers suspected that these negative cells might still produce small amounts of the protein.

To check this, they examined individual tumour cells and studied how the gene for CD70 was being regulated. They discovered that it was being suppressed by an enzyme called EZH2, which chemically modifies proteins around DNA.

These modifications tighten the DNA structure, making it difficult for the cell to read the gene and reducing CD70 production to very low levels. This effectively dimmed the signal, making the cells undetectable to current immune therapies.

Detailed imaging in two kidney cancer models found more than 80-90% of tumour cells that appeared CD70-negative by conventional tests still carried detectable amounts of the protein.

Scott Lowe, a cancer biologist at the Sloan Kettering Institute, said tumours may keep these tiny amounts of the protein because they still need it to survive. "If the cancer cells need some of the protein to stay viable, there may be evolutionary pressure to keep it at very low levels rather than lose it completely," he said.

The researchers called this phenomenon 'pseudo-heterogeneity' – the target protein is present in nearly all tumour cells but sometimes at levels too low for detection.

If cancer cells hide the target rather than eliminate it, the solution may be to build immune cells that detect faint signals.

Making T-cells more sensitive

To do this, the researchers developed a new receptor design called an HLA-independent T-cell (HIT) receptor.

Traditional CAR-T cells use receptors with molecular components that tell the immune cell when to attack. These triggers usually require a strong signal, meaning many copies of the target protein must be present on a cancer cell to elicit a response from T-cells.

The HIT receptor takes a different approach. Instead of changing the strength of the signal, it connects the cancer-detecting sensor directly to the T-cell's natural activation pathway – the internal system T-cells normally use to recognise infected cells – while bypassing the HLA system, the genetic ID tag that T-cells usually require to identify a target.

By co-opting this natural machinery, the receptor becomes able to detect antigens at much lower densities than a synthetic CAR.

A cancer biologist who peer-reviewed the study for the journal said anonymously that the finding could change how CAR-T therapies are designed: "If this principle holds for other tumour targets, it could change how we design CAR-T therapies. Instead of searching for perfectly uniform targets, we may need receptors that can detect very low levels of antigen."

Testing the idea

The team tested the approach using xenograft models, in which real human tumour tissue is implanted in mice. These models closely mimic the complexity of cancers found in patients.

> If the cancer cells need some of the protein to stay viable, there may be evolutionary pressure to keep it at very low levels rather than lose it completely.
>
> **SCOTT LOWE**
> Cancer biologist at the Sloan Kettering Institute

In kidney cancer models, conventional CAR-T cells initially shrank tumours but eventually failed. The remaining cancer cells, those with extremely low CD70 levels, survived and allowed the tumour to grow back.

The T-cells with the HIT receptor however eliminated these previously undetectable tumour cells. The researchers also observed complete and lasting tumour eradication in several models of kidney, ovarian, and pancreatic cancer with these T-cells.

Power versus safety

Increasing sensitivity raised one concern, however: "When you make immune cells better at detecting weak signals, you also have to be careful they don't start reacting to normal cells that carry small amounts of the same protein," the researcher quoted earlier said.

This problem is often called the "Goldilocks challenge" of cell therapy. To evaluate this risk, the researchers analysed a large single-cell atlas of 30 human tissues and 222 different cell types, finding that CD70 activity was largely absent from most vital organs such as the heart, lungs, and brain.

A significant exception was activated immune cells, which naturally express CD70 during immune responses. But even in those tissues, the protein appeared only in a small fraction of cells, typically less than 5%.

In experimental models, the engineered T-cells did attack some activated immune cells but the researchers called the effects temporary and manageable.

The biologist noted that future therapies will have to include additional safeguards: "If these treatments move into patients, researchers will likely add safety systems such as molecular switches so doctors can turn the cells off if necessary."

A new hope

Professor Lowe said the finding fits a broader pattern cancer biologists have been observing for years.

There is strong evidence that changes in how genes are turned on or off in cancer cells (without changing the DNA itself) can help tumour cells survive targeted therapies, he said. "These cells, often called drug-tolerant persisters, can tolerate treatment and later allow the tumour to regrow."

The researcher quoted earlier has tempered expectations for now. "It is still a long way from bedside application but if this strategy works in clinical trials, it could help tackle the biggest hurdle in cancer immunotherapy," he said.

As he suggested, for patients with kidney or ovarian tumours, where treatment options are still limited, being able to uncover and eliminate these hidden cells could make a real difference.

(Anirban Mukhopadhyay is a geneticist by training and science communicator from New Delhi. anirban.genetics@south.du.ac.in)

The Paranal Observatory operated by European Southern Observatory stands in the Atacama Desert, Chile, April 14, 2026. AP

Light pollution threatens the world's clearest skies

Associated Press

It takes a moment for the eyes to adjust. A faint spark appears in the darkness; then another, brighter one. Soon, stars, planets and entire constellations emerge. Before long, a whole galaxy stretches across the sky, visible to the naked eye.

In Chile's Atacama Desert, the night sky feels infinite. Considered the driest place on the earth, its darkness is also one of the clearest windows to the universe.

A rare combination of dry climate, high altitude, and isolation from urban light pollution makes the Atacama an unrivalled hub for world-class astronomy and home to the world's largest ground-based astronomical projects.

"The conditions in the Atacama Desert are unique in the world," said Chiara Mazzucchelli, president of the Chilean Astronomical Society. "There are more than 300 clear nights per year, meaning no clouds and no rain."

But these skies may be at risk.

A rare combination of dry climate, high altitude, and isolation from light pollution makes the Atacama a hub for astronomy and home to some of the largest astronomical projects

Last year, the desert became a battleground between scientists and an energy firm proposing a green power complex just kilometres from the Paranal Observatory. Managed by the European Southern Observatory (ESO), the site also is the future home to what is to be the most powerful optical telescope.

Although the energy project was cancelled in January following an appeal from astronomers and physicists, it exposed concerns that existing sky preservation laws are outdated and unclear. Since then, several environmental regulations have come under review.

The so-called Photon Valley in Chile is a high-altitude corridor where several observatories operate side by side using some of the most sophisticated instruments ever engineered.

"ESO's telescopes in particular are the most powerful astronomical facilities on the planet," said Itziar de Gregorio-Monsalvo, the ESO representative in Chile.

Every year, the Atacama Desert draws thousands of astronomers and scientists from around the world. "We are lucky to be here," said Julia Bodensteiner, an assistant professor at University of Amsterdam.

Walking across the Atacama's rocky, uneven terrain is no easy task. At altitudes exceeding 3,000 m, oxygen becomes a luxury, while scorching days give way to relentlessly cold nights. But for space observation, the more than 105,000 sq. km of desert are the perfect setting.

The exceptional conditions of the Atacama have enabled some of the most ambitious astronomical projects ever conceived, like the Extremely Large Telescope, ELT – a $1.5 billion endeavor by ESO scheduled for completion in 2030.

With 798 mirrors and a light-gathering area of nearly 1,000 square metres, the ELT will be 20 times more powerful than today's leading telescopes and 15-times sharper than Hubble Space Telescope.

Twenty years ago, the Atacama Desert was "an ocean of darkness," recalled Eduardo Unda-Sanzana, director of the Astronomy Center at the University of Antofagasta.

Over the years, however, the landscape has changed drastically. Driven by urban sprawl, industrial development, and the arrival of mining and wind farms, the desert has become coveted territory where balance is not always easy to reach.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Explorers who undertook 'impossible' expeditions

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the first person to summit all 14 eight-thousanders: peaks of the world higher than 8,000 m. He was also the first person to climb Mt Everest solo and the first person along with Peter Habeler to climb it without supplemental oxygen. He also crossed Antarctica and Greenland sans sleds or mobiles.

QUESTION 2

_____ _____ was the first Western woman (of British-Italian descent) to travel through the Hadhramaut valley of Yemen and mapped previously uncharted territories of Persia and West Asia, often alone and on minimal resources. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

Trained by the British Survey of India, X mapped Tibet, Lhasa, and a large section of the Brahmaputra while travelling in disguise. He covered some of the highest, most forbidden terrain on the earth and walked for more than 2,500 km. Name X.

QUESTION 4

In the 10th century, the Abbasid Caliphate sent _____ ___ _____ on a diplomatic mission to the Volga Bulgars in 921-22. He travelled from Baghdad through Persia and Central Asia and produced the principal historical source on Viking funerary rites. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

In 1984, Y became the first Indian woman to summit Mt Everest, at the age of 30, and later led the first all-women traverse of the entire Himalayan and Karakoram range, a journey of 4,000 km over seven months through some of the world's most extreme terrain. Name Y.

VISUAL: Name this Norwegian adventurer, who set out on April 28, 1947, on the infamous Kon-Tiki expedition, since considered to be racially motivated, to the Polynesian islands. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to April 21 quiz:

1. City whose name in Arabic means "elephant's trunk" – **Ans: Khartoum**
2. Largest non-island city inaccessible by road – **Ans: Iquitos**
3. City where the Niger river reaches its northernmost arc – **Ans: Timbuktu**
4. City standing where the Negro and Amazon rivers converge – **Ans: Manaus**
5. City where 'its' river bends north, inhabited since 1200 BC – **Ans: Varanasi**

Visual: Chongqing

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Tamal Biswas | Prem Nath Tiwari | Sunny Kumar | Sumit Raju

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Rani park walkers seek tighter security measures

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Residents associated with the Rani Park Walkers Association have strongly condemned an alleged arson incident in a public park in Bengaluru, where several trees were allegedly set on fire early on Monday morning. The association has urged the police to take immediate action by registering a case and launching an investigation to identify those responsible for the incident.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 28		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	15:56	SET 03:33
WEDNESDAY, APR. 29		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	16:43	SET 04:09
THURSDAY, APR. 30		
RISE	06:00	SET 18:34
RISE	17:32	SET 04:45

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	36	25

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
35°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Citizens, NGOs step in to quench thirst of urban animals

Animal welfare activists in the city have taken initiatives to ensure stray animals have access to water and are raising awareness about it as well

Pratyusha Srivastav
BENGALURU

Apart from placing bowls on the streets for stray animals, some NGOs encourage students to place water bowls for birds as well.

The soaring temperature in the city is not just leaving humans troubled. Urban animals have been left to fend for themselves to escape the heat and quench their thirst.

Animal welfare activists in the city have taken initiatives to ensure stray animals have access to water and are raising awareness about it as well. Many NGOs are working to ensure this and water bowls can already be seen across the city.

Sampige Foundation began distributing free water bowls made of cement across the city under Project Neeru. "We have donated 400 bowls in the last three weeks, and will be continuing this process throughout the summer," said Vignesh M., co-founder.

He mentioned that apart from placing bowls on the streets for stray animals, they encourage students to place water bowls for birds as well. To increase the impact, they have partnered with other organisations that order water bowls in bulk and ensure one is placed at every corner in their area. "We do drives to keep water bowls in places where residents are unlikely to keep one, such as traffic signals and commercial areas and give the responsibility to any nearby shop owner to refill it in a timely manner," he added.

People for Animals (PFA), an NGO located Kengeri, has distributed over 300 water bowls this summer so far. They also rescue wildlife animals and provide water for them. Operation Quench Thirst is their ongoing project where they keep cement bowls for stray animals and bigger cement tanks in the Turahalli forest for the wildlife there.

"Our tanker goes into the forest to refill the cement tanks and the natural source of water so the wild animals don't come outside the forest in search of water and remain safe and hydrated," said Navaz Shariff, chief veterinarian at PFA.

Their van also distributes water bowls wherever they go and they raise awareness on keeping the bowls clean and well maintained.

Many times, stray animals in search of water end up hurting themselves by choking on plastic bottles, jars or discarded steel containers. Water for Voiceless (WFV), an NGO working in 35 cities across India, including Bengaluru, is not only distributing water bowls, but is also raising awareness on animals suffering in the heat. They have partnered with educational institutions and are organising marathons and exhibitions to reach a wider audience for a bigger impact.

They work with the forest department and have partnered with eight district courts across the State to help as many stray animals as they can. "In cities, we provide bowls to hydrate animals, and in forests, we are working on replenishing the natural water sources so the animals don't come out of the forest, and there is no man-animal conflict," said Supriya H.B., public relations officer, WFV.

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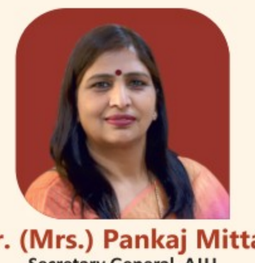
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Statement of Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Financial Year Ended March 31, 2026

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31st Mar 2026	Quarter Ended 31st Mar 2025	Change / Growth %
TOTAL DEPOSITS	61,712	53,689	14.94
TOTAL ADVANCES	53,379	44,366	20.32
CASA	17,365	14,193	22.35
OPERATING PROFIT	522.31	404.00	29.28
NET PROFIT	373.65	291.90	28.01
NET INTEREST INCOME	704.45	567.92	24.04
SMA %	1.29	2.55	126 bps
GROSS NPA %	0.73	1.25	52 bps
NET NPA %	0.18	0.36	18 bps
ROA %	2.05	1.81	24 bps
ROE %	15.03	13.79	124 bps
CRAR %	33.73	32.71	102 bps
EPS (₹) (Not Annualised)	23.60	18.44	27.98

₹ in Crore

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2026 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2025 (Audited)
1.	Total Income from Operations (net)	1,792.16	1,542.06	6,696.49	6,141.75
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	503.52	386.78	1,806.60	1,574.89
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax, (after Exceptional and/ or Extraordinary items)	503.52	386.78	1,806.60	1,574.89
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	373.65	291.90	1,337.55	1,182.61
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive Income (after tax)	NA	NA	NA	NA
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	158.35	158.35	158.35	158.35
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)	9,951.81	8,850.34	9,951.81	8,850.34
8	Securities Premium Account	769.23	769.23	769.23	769.23
9.	Networth	10,110.16	9,008.69	10,110.16	9,008.69
10.	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	-	-	-	-
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.02	-	0.02	-
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/- each) (Not Annualised) (for continuing and discontinued operations)				
	a) Basic:	23.60	18.44	84.47	74.68
	b) Diluted:	23.60	18.44	84.47	74.68
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	-

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NOTE: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results is available on the website of the Stock Exchange(s) (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and on the Bank's Website (www.tmb.bank.in). 2. Information relating to Total comprehensive income and other comprehensive income is not furnished as Ind-AS is not yet made applicable to banks. 3. Previous period figures have been regrouped and reclassified, where necessary to make them comparable with current period figures Place: Thoothukudi Date: 27.04.2026

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
SALEE S NAIR
Managing Director & CEO

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Death toll in eastern Chad during clashes over water resources

42 A clash in eastern Chad between two families over a water point escalated into a cycle of reprisals, the country's Deputy Prime Minister said late Sunday. Limane Mahamat speaking during a visit to the village of Igote, in the Wadi Fira province, near the border with Sudan, where the clashes occurred on Saturday, said that 42 people were killed and 10 wounded. PTI

Seats secured by ZPM in Aizawl Municipal Corporation polls

17 The ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) on Monday secured a landslide victory in the Aizawl Municipal Corporation polls, bagging 17 seats in the 19-member civic body in Mizoram. The main opposition Mizo National Front (MNF), which had won the previous election in 2021, had to settle with only one ward this time, while the Congress also bagged a seat. PTI

Total seizures of illicit inducements in Bengal during ongoing polls

510 in ₹ crore. The seizures are higher than the recoveries recorded during the last Assembly polls in 2021 which totalled ₹339 crore, as well as the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the State. The recoveries include ₹30 crore in cash, over 48,000 litres of liquor worth ₹126.85 crore, drugs worth ₹110.12 crore and precious metals worth ₹58.28 crore. PTI

Increase in power demand in India, amid a heatwave this year

270 in GW. India ramped up coal and gas-fired power generation as peak demand increased. Peak power demand rose to a record 256.1 GW on April 25, federal grid data showed. India is likely to rely more on coal and has deferred maintenance of nearly 10,000 MW of coal-fired capacity. It expects peak demand to reach around 270 GW this year. REUTERS

Number of new districts notified in Ladakh by LG Saxena

5 Ladakh's Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Monday approved the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory, fulfilling the long-pending demand of the people of the region. Mr. Saxena said that with the creation of five new districts — Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zanskar and Drass, Ladakh will now have seven districts. PTI

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Legal limits on U.S. war involvement

The War Powers Act requires the President to seek authorisation from Congress for the continued use of military force abroad beyond 60 days of such involvement, raising questions over the Trump administration's future course of action in the ongoing military engagement in West Asia

EXPLAINER

Narayan Lakshman

The story so far:

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump launched a military offensive against Iran on February 28, in tandem with Israeli strikes across the region. Tehran's retaliation, entailing missile and drone attacks on Israel and Gulf countries such as the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others, as well as its blockade of the critical oil transportation route through the Strait of Hormuz, led Washington deeper into the military engagement against Iran. Despite a fragile ceasefire and the U.S.'s counter-blockade of the Iranian ports and naval manoeuvres giving it a measure of control of the strait, the overall war plans of the Trump administration might be in jeopardy due to a provision of the U.S. constitution - the War Powers Act (WPA). The Act requires the President to seek authorisation from Congress for the continued use of military force in hostilities abroad beyond 60 days of such involvement, yet going by past record, Mr. Trump may have several options to circumvent this requirement and persist with the ongoing military engagement in West Asia.

U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington D.C. REUTERS

Provisions of the WPA

The Act, known formally as the War Powers Resolution of 1973, was introduced into U.S. law in the context of President Richard Nixon's support for clandestine hostilities in Cambodia during the Vietnam War, carried out sans Congressional consent. Mr. Nixon vetoed the bill, yet it was overridden by Congress and enacted into law as a means for Congress to limit presidential authority to wage war.

In its core provision, the WPA intends "...to fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution...and insure that the collective judgment of both the Congress and the President will apply to the introduction of United States Armed Forces into hostilities."

The U.S. Constitution originally sought to divide war powers between the President and Congress, with Congress alone retaining the authority to declare war and appropriate funding for the military, while recognising the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. Yet, even as early as the 1950s and 1960s, through the years of the U.S.'s prolonged military campaigns in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the lines of responsibility for such engagement began to blur across the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government.

The Act seeks to remove all room for doubt in this context as it stipulates, first, that even prior to the President committing troops into hostilities on foreign soil, Congress should be consulted "in every possible instance." Second, the WPA requires the President to report to Congress within 48 hours of deploying U.S. forces, unless Congress itself has declared war or statutorily authorised the action. Third, every U.S. president who commits his military to engage in conflicts abroad must continue reporting to Congress at least every six months for the duration of such an engagement.

As per the Act, if 60 days pass after the President's first reporting deadline to Congress, the use of the U.S. military and its assets is automatically terminated unless Congress had originally declared war or passed legislation authorising the wartime actions. A grace allowed to the president in this regard is that he is permitted to extend the 60-day period by an additional 30 days by certifying in writing to Congress the need for continued use of force.

Options for Trump administration

There are several points of ambiguity regarding Congressional authorisation for war, in this context. Firstly, the precise timeline of reporting requirements to get the wartime action of the Trump White House sanctioned by Congress is currently a subject of dispute. On one hand there is a lack of clarity on whether the 60-day deadline is April 29 - based on the day that hostilities began - or May 1 - based on the day that the White House informed Congress. Second, a number of Republican lawmakers have said that the ceasefire period should not count toward the 60-day deadline, with a few Democrats supporting this view too. Third, there might be Congressional reticence towards authorising the White House's war efforts, given the lack of recent precedent - Congress has not formally authorised the use of military force since 2002, when the U.S. was involved in hostilities in Iraq.

Nevertheless, the three clear options available to Mr. Trump at this point are the following: to submit to the WPA's authority and seek approval for continued military engagement, to begin winding down the war effort immediately, or to take advantage of the 30-day grace period, and use such an extension to pull back forces and assets from the region, rather than engage in further offensive manoeuvres of any kind.

Mr. Trump might seek to press his own precedent of 2019 when he ignored the deadline set by the WPA to continue military engagement in the conflict in Yemen that also included Saudi Arabia. He might also quote the fact that previous Presidents, from Nixon to Barack Obama - in the context of the war in Libya - did the same and found various excuses to keep fighting abroad without a nod from Congress. In any case, apart from a few scattered efforts by lawmakers such as Republican Lisa Murkowski, who is said to be working on a formal authorisation for the ongoing war so as to introduce guardrails into the operation, yet has not introduced such a proposal to the floor of the Senate, Republicans do not appear to be in a mood to dampen their President's momentum on the war front.

THE GIST

- U.S. President Donald Trump's administration launched a military offensive against Iran on February 28. However, the War Powers Act could place the Trump administration's broader war plans under legal and political strain.
- Three clear options available to Donald Trump are: to submit to the WPA's authority and seek approval for continued military engagement, to begin winding down the war effort immediately, or to take advantage of the 30-day grace period to pull back forces.

The evolving China-Pakistan space cooperation

The 'all-weather ties' between China and Pakistan are reflected in their space cooperation as well

Gunjan Singh

The Chinese space programme has undertaken major strides since it built and launched its first satellite in 1970. In last half a century Beijing has conducted satellite launches, built its own navigation system, carried out successful spacewalks, and built and operated its own space station. China is also in the process of undertaking a manned moon mission by 2030. China has also consistently promoted its space technologies and pushed for cooperation under Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This entails "a service network weaved by satellites and ground stations among the BRI partner countries has promoted the space industry to better benefit the local people". China has also used its launching platform, the Long March, to promote its soft power by launching satellite for a number of other countries.

The 'all-weather friendship' between China and Pakistan has been replicated in their space cooperation as well. The partnership began in 1990 with China launching Pakistan's Badr-I satellite. Today, China has built and launched satellites for Pakistan and in 2026 announced that it will send one Pakistani astronaut to the Tiangong space station.

Lunar mission and satellite launches

China has selected Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, two Pakistani candidates who will be trained in China for a visit to the Tiangong space station. However, only one of them will be visiting the space station as the payload specialist. This is being done under the 2025 agreement between the China Manned Space Engineering Office (CMSEO) and the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission.

China had also launched the ICUBE-Q in 2024 on Chang'e 6 orbiter. This was developed in a collaboration between the Pakistan's Institute of Space Technology (IST) and Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). The ICUBE-Q, a lunar CubeSat weighing about 7kg was to explore the far side of the moon. It was successful in capturing images of the moon and the sun and transmitting them back to Earth.

China has been the only country which has launched a number of Pakistani satellites in the last two decades. This has helped Pakistan build a network of reconnaissance and communication satellite network. The latest mission in April 2026 saw Pakistan's indigenous electro-optical satellite, EO-3 being launched from China's Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center. In 2025 China had launched three Pakistani satellites, a remote-sensing satellite (PRSS-2) in October 2025, Pakistan Remote Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1) in July 2025 and PRSC-EO1 in January 2025. In 2024 China had launched the second communication satellite for Pakistan, PakSat MM1. The first Pakistani communication satellite PAKSAT-IR was launched in 2011.

Navigation cooperation

BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) is China's indigenous navigation system. It is also seen as the plausible alternative to the United States, Global Positioning System (GPS). The BeiDou system is considered to be very precise with providing information with 2 centimetres precision and this can be improved to 5 millimetres after image processing. This can be very helpful in disaster relief, urban planning, traffic guidance as well as environmental management. In 2014 Pakistan became the first foreign country to use the BeiDou navigation system.

Under the China-Pakistan defence cooperation, the Pakistani military is all equipped to use the BeiDou system. In 2020 Chinese Satellite Navigation Office (CSNO) had announced that they will be establishing a Continuously Operating Radar Station (CORS) network in Pakistan which will be BeiDou enabled.

The developments highlight that the ties between China and Pakistan has moved to the space arena as well, giving Islamabad a strategic advantage. The dual nature of space technology also helps Pakistan gain access to better navigation, telecommunication and disaster relief.

(Dr. Gunjan Singh is an Associate Professor at OP Jindal Global University.)

THE GIST

- The China-Pakistan space partnership began in 1990 with China launching Pakistan's Badr-I satellite.
- China has been the only country which has launched a number of Pakistani satellites in the last two decades. Additionally, under the China-Pakistan defence cooperation, the Pakistani military is all equipped to use the BeiDou navigation system.

Residents seek renaming of IIMB Metro Station

Urging authorities to rename the station as 'IIMB-Bilekahalli', residents in south Bengaluru say the new name would strike a balance between modern infra and local heritage

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Residents in south Bengaluru have written to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) seeking a change in the proposed name of the upcoming 'IIMB' Metro Station on the Pink Line, urging authorities to recognise the locality's identity by renaming it 'IIMB-Bilekahalli'.

In a letter addressed to BMRCL, a local resident, Vasant Shetty, along with other residents, emphasised that Bilekahalli is more than just a geographical reference. "Bilekahalli is not merely a geographic marker, but a place with its own history, identity, and local significance," the letter stated, adding that

Residents have objected to BMRCL's proposal to name the upcoming Pink Line station as IIMB Metro Station, saying it does not reflect the locality's identity. K. MURALI KUMAR

naming the station solely after an institution risks overlooking the cultural context of the area.

The residents have proposed that incorporating both the institutional and locality names would strike a balance between modern infrastructure and local heritage. "We respectfully request that the station be named 'IIMB-Bilekahalli' instead of just 'IIMB'. This would ensure that both the institutional landmark and the original place name are recognised," the letter noted.

The IIMB station is part of the Pink Line of Namma Metro and is expected to serve key landmarks, including the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB), as well as surrounding residential and commercial areas such as Bilekahalli, Vijaya Bank Layout, Arekere, and major hospitals like Apollo and Fortis hospitals along Bannerghatta Road.

BMRCL has recently installed station name boards along the elevated stretch between Kalena Agrahara and Tavarekere, a 7.5-km corridor that is slated to become operational around May 2026.

Responding to the residents' representation, a senior BMRCL official confirmed that the letter has been received. However, the official said that renaming a metro station involves a detailed procedure. "There is a separate process to be followed as per government norms. Both the State and Central governments must approve any change in the station name, since this particular name is mentioned in the Detailed Project Report and other documents," the official said.

Renaming metro stations in Bengaluru has increasingly become a contentious issue, with several proposals sparking political and public debate. In September 2025, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah proposed renaming the Shivajinagar Metro Station as St. Mary's Metro Station. Speaking at the annual feast of St. Mary's Basilica on September 8, 2025, he said the station would be named after St. Mary, responding to requests from Rizwan Arshad, Shivajinagar MLA, and Archbishop Peter Machado.

The proposal, however, triggered a political backlash. On September 11, 2025, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis criticised the move, stating that renaming the station would amount to "insulting Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj." Beyond this, multiple communities have put forward demands to rename metro stations or even the Namma Metro name itself after religious leaders or prominent figures. In October 2025, responding to a demand by the Lingayat Matadeeshara Okkoota to rename Namma Metro as 'Basava Metro', Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State government would recommend the proposal to the Centre.

He added that if the project were fully funded by the State, the renaming could have been carried out immediately. Similarly, in June 2025, the Kodava Samaja in Bengaluru requested that a metro station be named after Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa, the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Army. Mr. Siddaramaiah had assured that the matter would be discussed in the State Cabinet.

Negligence case booked over fire at warehouse

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police have registered a case under Section 287 of the BNS against Reliance Project and Property Management Service Pvt. Ltd., following a major fire at a warehouse.

The complainant, H.S. Padmaraju, on Thursday, stated that he owns a warehouse at Adakamaranahalli village, and the property had been leased to the company on March 15, 2012, for commercial use. He alleged that the tenant company stored goods far beyond permissible limits.

The fire broke out on April 8. The complainant has alleged that the incident was a result of negligence, citing the lack of fire safety measures.

24th edition of *The Hindu* EP Career Counselling on May 9 in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 24th edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling began on April 25, with the maiden event in Davangere.

It will cover eight other locations across eight cities in Karnataka in the days to come.

Organised by *The Hindu*, this landmark event continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well-informed academic and career decisions.

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, the event brings together renowned educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation and CET and NEET counselling, conducted by officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

The Hindu Education Plus - 24th Year Career Counselling 2026

Region	Date	Venue	Address
Vijayapura	May 2, 2026 Saturday	BLDE Engg. campus	BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti, College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar, Vijayapura - 586101
Tumakuru	May 3, 2026 Sunday	Birla Auditorium	Birla Auditorium, Siddaganga Institute of Technology, B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 572103
Bidar	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall, Sapna Landmark, Opposite Vishal Functional Hall, Airport Road, Bidar
Mangaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Sri Sudeendra Auditorium	Canara High School Main Campus, Kodiabail, Mangalore - 575003
Bengaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	SJRC Auditorium	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce, # 9, Race Course Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009
Kalaburagi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa, Sharnbasva University, Vidya Nagar, Kalaburagi - 585103
Hubballi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium, BVB College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi - 580031
Mysuru	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, P.B. No. 206, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru - 570002

The Hindu EDUCATIONPLUS career counselling fair '26 Karnataka

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, the event brings together renowned educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation and CET and NEET counselling, conducted by officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

There is guidance provided on career opportunities in diverse fields including Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Management, Engineering, Medicine, CA and Cost Management, Fashion Designing, Animation, Performing Arts, Journalism, Architecture, and more. Whether students are exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

Event schedule
Registration is from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

The programme is from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry is free and open to all students and parents.

Contact 9448160126 or 9731400992 for more information or check Link: https://newsth.live/CET2026ED

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ACS College of Engineering, Alliance University, Adichunchanagiri University, BG Nagar, BLDE Association, Vijayapura, Credila, IIBS, IDP, JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysuru, Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kammavaari Sangham Group of Institutions, Karnataka Bank, KLE Technological University, Hubballi, Nitte (Deemed to be University), Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Shri Madhwa Vadiraja Institute of Technology and Management, Soundarya Institute of Management & Science, SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire, Shanthivana Trust, Dharmasthala, Sharnbasva University, Kalaburagi, Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, Bheemanna Khandre Institute of Technology, Bidar, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru.

Associate sponsors
Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi, Azim Premji University, Canara Engineering College, Mangaluru, ICFAI, Visvesvaraya Technological University, and Mahindra University, M.S. Engineering College

Regional sponsorship
Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University).

HC refuses to quash case against man for filming voyeuristic clips

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday refused to quash a criminal case registered against a 28-year-old man who was filming voyeuristic videos of women inside Bengaluru metro and posting them on an anonymous Instagram page called *@metro_chicks*.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by B.K. Diganth, who had challenged the legality of the registration of a criminal case.

"What kind of man are you? You were taking photos of women from the backside and posting them on Instagram. What nonsense is this? How do you do this? You don't even let women be safe anywhere," the court observed orally when the petitioner's advocate said the petitioner had not clicked the photos contrary to the claim by the police that photos and videos were shot by him.

When the petitioner's advocate raised techno-legal issues regarding the registration of the *suo motu* case by the Banashankari police during May 2025, the court said it would not allow technicalities to override such acts of the petitioner, while dismissing the petition. The petitioner, hailing from Holenarsipur, Hassan district, was residing in Peenya locality in Bengaluru and was working as an accountant at a private company. He had shot all the videos and photos that were uploaded on the account, while commuting by metro to work. All the 13 videos that he had posted on the Instagram account were recorded by him on his mobile phone during his travel on the metro, the police stated.

He was booked under Sections 77 (voyeurism) and 78 (stalking) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿ(ನಿ), ಶಶಾಕಾ,ಪಾ & ಪೋ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ಖಾನಾಪೂರ ಈಮೇಲ್:kbjnleesbc 2@gmail.com
ಸಂ:ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ/ಶಶಾಕಾ/ಪಾ&ಪೋ/ಖಾನಾಪೂರ/ಪಿಬಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ/2026–27/28 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಇವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಕೃಭಾಜನಿನಿ ಶ.ಶಾ.ಕಾ ಪಾ&ಪೋ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಖಾನಾಪೂರರವರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಒಂದು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತವೆ;

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ: Construction of Cross Regulator at Ch:41.000 Km of SBC main canal for diversion of water to Shahapur storage tank for drinking purpose during summer period. **2) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 2783 **3) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.144.40ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು **4) ಟೆಂಡರಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ:** ರೂ.2.17ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು 5) **ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗುವ ಅವಧಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 28.04.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಯಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.30 ಘಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. **6) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರಿಂಗ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 16.05.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 05.30 ಘಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ. **7) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 18.05.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ಸದರಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **8) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ :** 20.05.2026 ಮುಂಜಾನೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ **9) ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ:** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿದವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕೃಭಾಜನಿ(ನಿ), ಶಶಾಕಾ ಪಾ & ಪೋ ವಿಭಾಗ
ಖಾನಾಪೂರ
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/36/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಪಿ.&ಎ/2026–27

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION,
KALABURAGI, e-mail: midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com,Ph.08472 - 220196
IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-4/2026-27/ 534 DATED : 27-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW- 4)

1) Detail of Work : **THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 4702 APB, & 4702 MOT FOR THE YEAR 2025-26,** 2) Amount of Estimate : **Max. Rs. 14,49,15,217.67, Min. Rs. 3,93,37,522.22,** 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-I, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount : Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. **Max. Rs. 14,50,000.00, Min Rs. 5,96,100.00,** 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time : 08.05.2026 Up to 11.00 Hours, 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications : 11.05.2026 Up to 11.00 Hours, 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders : 12.05.2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid : 13.05.2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : 14.05.2026 Up to 17.30 Hours, 10) Addl. information : Executive Engineer M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi 11) Address of E-Portal. : (https://kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)

DIPR/Kalaburagi/78/
Deshpande Publicity/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my clients **1. Mr. JAYARAM A. S 2. Mrs. SUNANDA JAYARAM 3. Mr. SUBRAMANYA V 4. Mrs. TULASI SUBRAMANYA,** are intending to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property from it's owners Viz., **M/s MAHYCO PRIVATE LIMITED** A company incorporated under the Provisions of Companies Act 2013, having Registered office at # 19, Rajmahal, 84 Veer Nariman Road, Mumbai, Maharastra, India-400 020, Represented by its Authorized Signatory **Mr. VIJAYAKUMAR KILAR BALAKRISHNA** Son of Mr. Balakrishna.

If anybody is having any share, right, title, benefit, interest, objection, claim and demands in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, assignment, mortgage, charge gift, trust inheritance, occupation, possession, tenancy sub-tenancy, leave and licenses, caretaker basis, lease, sub lease, lien, maintenance, easement, release through any agreement, conveyance deed, writing devise, contracts/agreements or encumbrance etc., he/she/they may contact the undersigned with the documentary proof substantiating his/her/their objections/ claims/details of dispute/s within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which, my client will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owner as if there are no third party claims/ objections/disputes in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of undeveloped vacant Immoveable Property bearing PID No. 2415596508, Old No. 41/1 31/2, Ward No.24, Nelamangala City Municipal Document No. 26411311, Assessment No. 41/1 31/2, erstwhile commercially/ industrially converted land bearing Survey No. 31/2 of Vishveshwarapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, situated within the limits of City Municipal Council, Nelamangala, Bengaluru Rural District, measuring 15782.75 Square Meters (measuring 3 Acres 36 Guntas and 2 Guntas of Phut Kharab) with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever hereunder or underneath or above the surface and bounded on the East by: National Highway NH Road, West by : Byadarahalli Border, North by: Land bearing Survey No. 32/1, 42/1, 42/2, Land of New Wood Sawmill, South by : Survey No. 31/2 of Veeranna son of Kempabaylappa

Sd/- **N.LAKKANNA,**
Advocate & Legal Consultant
No.692, Shankarnagar Main Road
Vijayanandanagar, Nanidini Layout,
Bengaluru-560096. Mobile No.9740000355
Email Id: lakkannaadvocate@gmail.com,

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Tiruchchirappalli Division)
E-Tender Notice No: T-SG-36-I-1-2026-2027 & T-SG-36-III-1-4-2026-2027 Dt.25.04.2026

For and on behalf of The President of India, Sr. Divisional Signal & Tele communication Engineer, Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli invites online tender for the following work **up to 14.00 hrs on 21.05.2026**

Item No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of the Work
1.	T-SG-36-I-1-2026-2027	Conversion of Tirunageswaram halt station into crossing station.
2	T-SG-36-III-1-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Fire detection and alarm systems over TPJ division for Three years
3.	T-SG-36-III-2-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for M/s. Amaraja make IPS at Station/LCs over Tiruchchirappalli division for three years
4.	T-SG-36-III-3-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of Hitachi make Electronic Interlocking at CDM, PRT, AYI & TJ yard in Tiruchchirappalli division for Three years
5.	T-SG-36-III-4-2026-2027	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 13 Nos of Data Loggers of Sirveen Make over TPJ division for the period of Three years

Item No	Cash Value in Lakhs of Rupees	Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees)	Validity Offer	Date and Time of Closing	Period of Completion in months
1.	7,66,79,152.52	15,33,600.00	60	12.05.2026 14:00 Hrs.	9 months
2.	2,76,21,000.00	2,88,100.00	90	12.05.2026 14:00 Hrs	36 months
3.	5,54,46,084.00	4,27,200.00	90	12.05.2026 14:00 Hrs	36 months
4.	1,36,11,923.64	2,18,000.00	90	12.05.2026 14:00 Hrs	36 months
5.	30,91,600.00	61,800.00	60	12.05.2026 14:00 Hrs	36 months

If the date of opening of tenders happens to be a declared holiday at a later date, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the stipulated time.
The detailed Tender Notice, Tender document along with terms & conditions and if any corrigendum to tender is issued can be accessed through **https://www.ireps.gov.in**
GST will apply as per extent norms of GOI.

Sr.Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer,
Southern Railway, Tiruchchirappalli.

JHARKHAND MEDICAL & HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT & PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LTD.
MCH BUILDING, RCH CAMPUS, NAMKUM, RANCHI – 834010.
(CIN – U855100JH2013SGC001276)E-mail:jmhidpc2014@gmail.com
Website: https://jmhidpcl.jharkhand.gov.in/
GST No. 20AADCJ4293L2ZH

Bid Ref. No.JMC/NIT-26/Drugs/01 Date:27-04-2026
Rate Contract for Supply of IFA–Red/IFA-Blue/Zinc Tablet from the GMP Certified manufactures.

The **Managing Director, Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Development & Procurement Corporation Limited (JMHIDPCL), Ranchi** hereby invites separate **Technical Bid** and **Financial Bid** (two envelope system) through e-procurement from eligible manufacturer **Rate Contract for Supply Medicines**.

The Bid documents with detailed conditions can be viewed and downloaded through website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and should be submitted through e-procurement system only. The eligible Bidder(s) willing to participate must be registered in e-procurement portal.

Particulars	Date & Time
Name of Work	Rate Contract for Supply of Medicine
Time of Completion	Within 60 days after issue of work order
Date of Publication of Bid	29-04-2026
Pre-bid Meeting	06-05-2026 03:00 PM
Bid Submission Start Date	13-05-2026
Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	20-05-2026 05:00 PM
Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposal	21-05-2026 05:00 PM
Date of Opening of Financial Proposal	To be notified later
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 200000/- (Online Payment Gateway)
Contact/ Helpline No. of E-Procurement Cell	+91-9471180967

Note: *The above dates may change due to declaration of holidays. In the event of any of the dates being declared as a holiday for the office of the JMHIDPCL, the Bids will be opened on the next working day at the appointed time.*

JMHIDPCL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Bid document including quantity/ number of Medicines to be supplied or to reject any or all Bids without giving any notice or assigning any reason. The decision of the Managing Director, JMHIDPCL in this regard shall be final.

Sd/-
Managing Director JMHIDPCL
PR.NO.378572 Jharkhand Medical & Health Infrastructure Dev & Procurement Corp Ltd(26-27):D

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 565/STBA/04-02/2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites sealed applications for Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at the following Railway stations over Bengaluru Division of South Western Railway for issuing of Unreserved/General Tickets through Unreserved Ticket System (UTS) on commission basis for the period of Three (03) years:

Sl. No	Name of the Station	Station Code	Station Category
1	Chikkabanavar	BAW	NSG-5
2	Kuppam	KPN	

Date and Time of submission of application : From 10:00 Hrs. to 15:00 Hrs. of 29-05-2026.
Date and time of opening of application: 15:05 hrs. of 29-05-2026
For details log on: www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUB/62/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Bengaluru**

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KEYWORD

An ice cream vendor walking past a paddy field in Rajgir, Bihar. R.V. MOORTHY

Examining the roadblocks to Bihar's development trajectory

A look at what has hindered Bihar's socio-economic progress despite a politics centred on social justice. The gap between political empowerment and ground-level stagnation calls for changes aimed at bringing about overall development in the region

Rebecca Rose Varghese

What drives progress and development in a region? Does it stem from the equal rights granted by the state to citizens? Does it arise from equal opportunities fostering economic growth? Is it rooted in ownership and a sense of security within the region? Or is it an amalgamation of all these – social justice, ownership, equality, opportunities, and infrastructure – that leads to progress? Can true development materialise when symbolic changes occur without the backing of material changes?

These are some of the critical questions examined by Sandipan Baksi and Mrityunjay Pandey in their article "*Limitations of the Politics of Social Justice in Transforming Rural Bihar*". Their analysis of Bihar reveals a stark contradiction. While the State is well known for its progressive political stance that covers social justice, dignity, and equality; in terms of socio-economic indicators, it remains ranked the lowest in the country. Bihar's per capita income at current prices for 2024-25 was around ₹70,000, while for India it was approximately ₹2.05 lakh. In terms of the Human Development Index (HDI) as well, Bihar ranked the lowest, at 0.650 compared to India's 0.685 (2023).

Such a paradox requires an in-depth study to understand whether symbolic gains in dignity suffice in the absence of material redistribution.

Drawing on quantitative data from a village survey conducted in 2012 and a resurvey in 2018 across two villages in Bihar – Katkuian in West Champaran district and Nayanagar in Samastipur district – the authors of the paper attempt to demonstrate how limited the politics of social justice remains without effective implementation.

The paper underscores that in a country like India, as long as social justice movements and their leadership remain linked to the asset-owning elite and upper classes and castes who seek to preserve the agrarian class-caste status quo, socio-economic changes that help improve the lives of the people in the region are not possible.

Socio-economic conditions

Bihar remains mostly rural, with the bulk of the population in rural regions. Agriculture engages the majority of the rural workforce and directly shapes lives, livelihoods, and social status. The lives of the majority are characterised by extreme poverty, lack of employment, meagre agricultural wages, and absent healthcare facilities. The situation is worse for women and backward castes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes.

A striking feature of Bihar's economy is extreme inequality in land ownership, a primary means of production, with many households lacking even house-site ownership, leading to insecurity. Two-thirds of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households remain landless. Despite all this, Bihar is known for a strong sense of political awareness rooted in identity politics, the leaders demanding representation, often fueling vibrant electoral participation in the State.

The political evolution

Bihar's political evolution centred on the slogan "roti aur izzat" (bread and dignity), driven by pre-independence movements that blended peasant struggles through the Bihar Pradesh Kisan Sabha, socialist reforms for land redistribution and caste equality, and backwards-caste assertions by Yadavs, Kurmis, and Koeris against upper-caste dominance. The abolition of Zamindari tenures post-independence empowered these groups, resulting in the Backward Classes Federation's push for reservations.

With this, leaders such as Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan started focusing on ensuring that backward castes and classes were represented in the political sphere. Through a persistent fight for reservation and inclusion, a strong political identity emerged among these communities. From the 1970s through the 1990s, under the leadership of figures like Lalu Prasad Yadav, a "silent revolution" took place that broke upper-caste dominance in politics, effectively paving the way for backward communities to secure their place through the implementation of reservations.

The dichotomy

While this evolution delivered political representation for backward castes, it left underlying agrarian structures intact, perpetuating inequality from unequal land distribution. Zamindari abolition helped middle peasantry like Yadavs, Kurmis, and Koeris gain some land, but the Backward Classes Federation prioritised reservations over deeper reforms, ignoring persistent rural land disparities.

Even in power, wealthy landowning backward caste elites dominated parties, maintaining economic hierarchies. By 2020, candidates' average assets topped ₹4-6 crore, far exceeding the rural household average.

These shortcomings explain why Bihar ranks lowest across development indices, enduring deplorable health, education, poverty, and unemployment.

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24 data, the national literacy rate was 80.9%, while Bihar trailed at 74.3% with a significant gender gap. The situation in Katkuian and Nayanagar illustrates how this lag persists across Rural Bihar. In Katkuian, while literacy for those aged seven and above rose from 60% in 2012 to 79% in 2018, and female literacy for the same age group improved from 46.7% to 67%, it remained lower than the country's average. In Nayanagar, despite higher overall literacy than in Katkuian, deep inequalities still persist. For instance, the 2012 survey found that among Dalit households, who made up 34% of the village population, only two individuals had graduate degrees. On the other hand, over 30% of males from "Others" caste categories were graduates.

Asset ownership data further highlights these inequalities. In Katkuian, 50% of households were landless in 2012, of which 14% were Yadavs, and the share of asset ownership only worsened by 2018. Similarly, Nayanagar exhibited sharp resource disparities, with Bhumihar households, who made up only 22% of the village population, owning over 95% of the agricultural land.

Housing conditions, including access to electricity, latrines, and LPG, also remained poor across both villages, even though they showed some improvement compared to 2012. This reveals a stark dichotomy; progressive political ideologies expanded representation, but yielded no meaningful social or economic development, as struggles for land redistribution and labour rights stayed marginalised from mainstream politics.

Conclusion

Such persistent gaps between political empowerment and ground-level stagnation demand a re-evaluation of the scope of social justice.

The State of Kerala, for instance, is an example of the need to bring structural changes, alongside progressive ideologies. The implementation of land policies through equitable distribution in the State has led to greater ownership and a stronger sense of security among the population. This has had a significant impact in promoting better education systems and literacy, improving infrastructure, and enhancing living standards. This contrast highlights the limits of relying solely on symbolic or policy-driven measures of inclusion. Reservation alone, therefore, achieves little in the absence of material transformation.

In agrarian Bihar, where land and assets dominate, reservations achieve little on their own. Thus, this paper becomes highly relevant in underscoring the need to dismantle persisting agrarian structures that maintain inequality, in order to bring about overall development in the region, lest social justice remain merely aspirational.

(Rebecca Rose Varghese is a freelance journalist.)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Revisit the dramatic revolt aboard the HMS Bounty, one of maritime history's most storied uprisings at sea

Prathmesh Kher

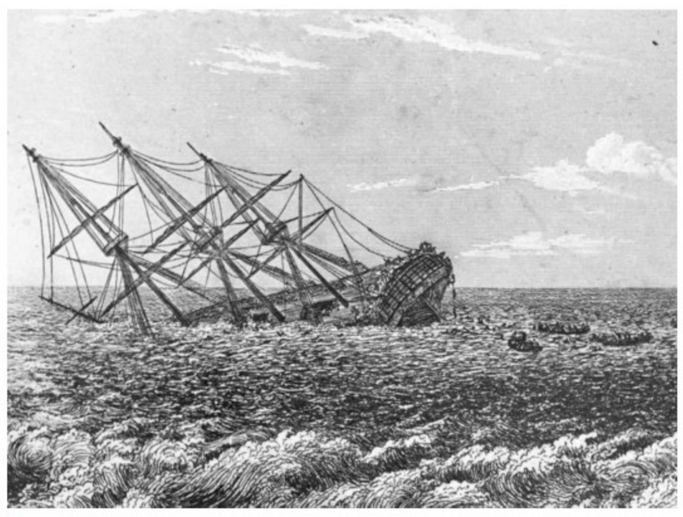
QUESTION 1
In what year did the Mutiny on the Bounty take place, and in which ocean?

QUESTION 2
Who led the mutiny against William Bligh?

QUESTION 3
What was the primary botanical objective of the HMS Bounty's voyage?

QUESTION 4
Name the remote island where the remaining mutineers ultimately established a settlement.

QUESTION 5
Who was the last surviving mutineer discovered on Pitcairn Island?



Visual question: This 19th-century etching captures the dramatic end of the HMS Pandora, wrecked on the Great Barrier Reef. What connection does it have to the HMS Bounty? PUBLIC DOMAIN

Questions and answers to the previous day's daily quiz:

1. Reason for celebrating April 27 as International Design Day and its theme for 2026. **Ans: Commemorates the founding of the International Council of Design (ICoD) in 1963 and 'The spaces in between' respectively**
2. Name the typefaces associated with Stanley Morrison, the duo of Robin Nicholas and Patricia Saunders and the Max Miedinger-Eduard Hoffmann pairing. **Ans: Times New Roman, Arial, and Helvetica**
3. The designer credited with the famous '10 Principles of Good Design' and the company that he created many iconic products for. **Ans: Dieter Rams who designed for Braun**
4. The famous saree from eastern India which is renowned for designs on the 'pallu' depicting mythological scenes and epic stories. **Ans: Baluchari**
5. The term for the mathematical proportion (~1.618) often used in design and architecture for aesthetic balance. **Ans: Golden Ratio**
6. The famous engineer who is said to have designed the internal metal framework for the Statue of Liberty. **Ans: Gustave Eiffel**
7. With which famous global brands would one associate the iconic designs 'Swoosh', 'Pecten' and 'Bibendum'? **Ans: Nike, Shell, and Michelin**

Visual: The Iranian architect who designed this famous edifice in New Delhi. **Ans: Fariborz Sahba**

Early birds: Piyali Tuli | Sunil Madhavan | Arun Kumar Singh | Charulata Ganguly | Sadhan Panda

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"You were supposed to have been here an hour ago!"

"I know! I know! The special class was called off and I..."

"...your class was called off! Then you should have been here long ago. You have no excuse for..."

"...will you please let me finish? As I was saying, the class was postponed and I..."

"...it was postponed, eh? Well, in that case, the class wasn't 'called off', it was 'put off'."

"You mean there's a difference between 'put off' and 'call off'?"

"Yes, there is. When you 'put off' doing something, you postpone doing it. Here's an example. Since the flight from Hyderabad was delayed, the meeting was put off by a few hours."

"Our Principal's visit to Singapore was put off by a couple of days because of the strike."

"I am sure he was happy that the visit hadn't been called off."

"What does 'call off' mean?"

"When you call something off, you cancel it. The meeting had to be called off because the chairman had to leave for Paris."

"When the boy realised that the girl's father had lost all his money, he called off the wedding."

"Sounds like the kind of stuff people do in movies. By the way, you can also say, 'The boy called the wedding off'."

"I see."

"Here's another example. The cricket match was called off because of the rain."

"Many people want all cricket matches to be called off. By the way, do you think some of our cricket players actually took money from..."

"...let's not talk about cricket. Do you want to see the movie or not?"

"Of course, I do!"

"Then get out of that silly uniform! And step on it, will you?"

"Step on it? Step on what? What are you...?"

"...when you tell someone to step on it, you want them to hurry up. It's an expression used in American English."

"I see. But what is the 'it'' that you are talking about?"

"The 'it' in the expression 'step on it' refers to the accelerator in a car – the 'gas pedal', as the Americans call it."

"And when you ask a driver to step on the 'gas pedal', what you are telling him to do is increase the speed."

"Exactly! In other words, you are telling him to hurry up."

"When you are in an autorickshaw, you don't have to tell the driver to step on it."

"You certainly don't. Most of the time I tell them to slow down."

"The service at the restaurant that we went to last night was really bad. My sister kept telling the waiter to step on it."

"Did he step on it?"

"No, he didn't. I guess he found it difficult to cope up with all the..."

"...cope up? How many times have I told you...?"

"...sorry! Sorry! The word 'cope' should not be followed by 'up'."

"Exactly!"

"The old man wasn't able to cope with the pressure of the job."

"I am unable to cope with the heat."

"The restaurant that we are going to is air-conditioned. So step on it, will you?"

Published in The Hindu on June 6, 2000

Word of the day

Formidable:
inspiring fear

Synonyms: redoubtable, unnerving

Usage: *The army faced a formidable enemy on difficult terrain.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/3nYFYA/formidable

International Phonetic Alphabet: /fəˈmɪdəbəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

West Asia crisis: KIA sees dip in international flyers in March

The airport, along with MIA, reported cancellations of flights, especially to West Asian destinations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A view of Kempegowda International Airport. While there was a drop in passenger numbers during March at both KIA and MIA, the international freight movement saw an increase in numbers despite the cancellation of flights. FILE PHOTO

The ongoing crisis in West Asia has led to a reduction in international flights and passengers at the two international airports in the State during March. The two airports which operate international flights in the State are Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and the Mangaluru International Airport (MIA).

Both these airports reported cancellations of flights, especially to destinations in the West Asia region, in the wake of the conflict that erupted on February 28.

According to data from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), the two airports handled 708 fewer flights in March compared to the previous month.

Likewise the airports handled 1.24 lakh fewer passengers in March compared to February.

During March, international aircraft movements at KIA and MIA stood at 3,101 and 49, respectively, compared with 3,504 and 354 flights in February.

KIA and MIA handled 5.18 lakh and 13,016 international passengers in March, compared to 5.92 lakh and 63,245 passengers in February.

The key sectors affected by the reduction in flight services include Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are the top two international destinations from KIA, while MIA operates daily services to several destinations in West Asia.

Officials said that flight services have been restored to all destinations in the region.

"Flight services that were cancelled have now been fully restored. We are operating flights to all the destinations in the region," a Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) spokesperson said.

While there was a drop in passenger numbers during March, the international freight movement saw an increase in numbers despite the cancellation of flights.

The international freight movement increased by 2076 metric tonnes during March.

As per data, in March, KIA processed 29,964 metric tonnes of cargo as against 27,702 metric tonnes in February.

However at MIA there was a drop in the freight movement as the airport processed 3.1 metric tonnes as against 189.3 metric tonnes in February.

Woman alleges assault, sexual harassment by delivery agent

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old woman has filed a complaint at the Thirumalashettyhalli Police Station alleging assault, sexual harassment, and criminal intimidation by a delivery agent.

According to the complaint, the incident occurred between 6.30 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. on April 15 near the entrance of Sanjeevini Srushti Apartments.

The accused, identified as Vishwas, had allegedly parked his motorcycle at the main gate, obstructing entry. When security guards asked him to move the vehicle, he reportedly began abusing them.

The complainant, who was walking her dogs at the time, intervened and advised the guards to follow society protocols. This allegedly triggered the accused, who began verbally abusing her in obscene language and made sexually explicit gestures.

The woman alleged that when she confronted him, the accused slapped her, attempted to pull her hair, and touched her inappropriately, trying to disrobe her. She managed to resist and step away, sustaining injuries including bruises on her cheek and swelling in her hands.

Security personnel, identified as Sunil Yadav and Rohit Sarma, intervened during the altercation. The entire incident was reportedly captured on CCTV cameras installed on the apartment premises.

The complainant dialled the emergency helpline (112), following which a patrol vehicle arrived around 7.15 p.m. However, the complainant has alleged delays and lapses in police action.

She claimed that the police initially refused to conduct a medical examination, asking her to get it done independently. She was made to wait for hours at the police station before being asked to return the next day. The FIR was registered only on April 16 around 6.45 p.m., nearly a day after the incident, she alleged. She further alleged that the accused was briefly detained but later released, and was seen again at the apartment premises the following day.

The woman also alleged that individuals claiming to be representatives of the delivery company visited the police station and attempted to intimidate and emotionally pressure her to withdraw the complaint.

In her complaint, she has sought action under charges including assault and causing hurt, outraging the modesty of a woman, sexual harassment through gestures and words, and criminal intimidation. The police said further investigation into the case is ongoing.

Woman gives birth to baby on train at Bantwal

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A pregnant passenger delivered a baby onboard a train with assistance from railway staff at Bantwal railway station, in Karnataka, on Sunday evening. As per a statement from Mysuru division of South Western Railway, the pregnant passenger, Ponnamma, was found to be in distress and experiencing heavy bleeding when the train arrived at Bantwal railway station at 7.22 p.m.

"Before the arrival of the ambulance, the passenger delivered a premature baby boy inside the coach," said the statement. Following the delivery, the mother and newborn were shifted by ambulance to Somayaji Private Hospital at Bantwal.

Both the mother and the baby were in stable condition, though the baby is premature and under medical observation.

Ramachandra Madatti Gowda participating in the London Marathon 2026

Bhadravati doctor takes part in London Marathon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ramachandra Madatti Gowda, a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) doctor, participated in the London Marathon 2026 organised by the Mouth Cancer Foundation, London, U.K. on Sunday to raise funds for the Mouth Cancer charity, wearing the tricolour flag, the Kannada flag and a Kannadiga badge.

Originally from Bhadravati of Shivamogga district, he has completed his BDS from Bengaluru Dental College, MDS in KLE VK Institute of Dental Sciences, Belagavi and MFDS in London.

He then completed his MBBS, MRCS and FRCS degrees in London and began working as an oral and maxillofacial reconstructive surgeon.

Over 240 CCTV cameras disabled at Chinnaswamy stadium before match

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite the incident, the high-profile IPL fixture was conducted smoothly without any untoward incidents. K. MURALI KUMAR

A complaint has been filed at Cubbon Park Police Station alleging large-scale sabotage of surveillance cameras before the IPL match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Gujarat Titans (GT) on April 24 at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. The complaint was filed by a representative of Staqu Technologies Private Limited, a Gurugram-based firm that provides AI-driven surveillance solutions during match days.

According to the complaint, a routine inspection on the morning of the match revealed that more than 240 CCTV cameras installed in and around the stadium were non-functional.

Upon further verification, suspicion fell on two individuals – Manjunath E. and Abdul Khader – who were working for a subvendor IVS Digital Solutions.

The duo allegedly entered the stadium in a vehicle around 11.30 a.m. without authorisation. The accused allegedly deliberately tampered with the surveillance infrastructure by disabling the Network Video Recorder (NVR) system, and damaging fibre optic cables. They also allegedly vandalised newly-installed equipment and disrupted connectivity.

The affected surveillance network included cameras installed at all key security points, such as entry gates, perimeter areas, corporate sections, and public concourses within the stadium.

According to the complaint, optical fibre cables connected to nearby junction boxes were destroyed, further crippling the monitoring system.

Preliminary findings revealed that the CCTV installation work at the stadium had been subcontracted by Staqu Technologies to IVS Digital Solutions. Investigators found that due to pending payment issues, two contract workers engaged by IVS Digital Solutions allegedly intentionally cut CCTV camera wires in the server room, which was under the company's custody. The duo was taken into custody questioned. The police also summoned the company for questioning.

The police said the issue was swiftly identified and rectified before the stadium gates were opened, ensuring that there was no disruption to surveillance, crowd management, or overall security arrangements.

Despite the incident, the high-profile IPL fixture was conducted smoothly without any untoward incidents.

City to host pan-India IIT summit on May 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka, in partnership with the Pan-IIT Alumni India Association, will organise a Pan-IIT Bangalore Summit 2026 on May 16 in the city, according to Pankaj Kumar Pandey, principal secretary, e-governance, GoK.

Themed around 'Technology Sovereignty', the conference is expected to bring together 2,000 participants from across 23 IITs, alongside policy makers, technology leaders, startup founders and investors. The conclave will feature high-level plenaries, deep-dive panels, and independent tracks on AI, defence, semiconductors, energy, mobility and healthcare. The summit would also have a curated pitch-a-thon, which would connect high-growth centric startups with over 200 venture capitalists, while a 10,000-participant hackathon would also be held in order to tackle real-world challenges.

Mr. Pandey said, "The summit comes as a call to action. In a world increasingly shaped by technological power, India cannot afford to remain a follower."

Mr. Pandey further said, Karnataka in general and Bengaluru, in particular, became the epicentre of India's technological capability. As one of India's top GDP-contributing States and the country's leading hub for venture capital investment, Bengaluru accounted for a dominant share of startup funding and innovation activity. This leadership has not emerged overnight. It is the result of a multi-decade evolution. The first wave was anchored in the public sector and strategic institutions such as HAL, NAL, BHEL, and DRDO, while the second, saw the rise of IT services giants like Infosys, TCS, HCL, and Wipro. The third wave brought consumer technology to the forefront, led by companies like Flipkart, founded by IIT alumni Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, which catalysed a generation of entrepreneurs and the broader startup ecosystem. The fourth wave saw the emergence of globally competitive products and SaaS, he observed.

"We have now entered the fifth wave – defined by deep technology, artificial intelligence, and scientific innovation. This wave is fundamentally different. It demands longer gestation cycles, deeper research integration, and tighter collaboration between academia, industry, and government. It is here that India must make its most strategic bets if it is to achieve true technological sovereignty," Mr. Pandey added.

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Another hitch in BJP-JD(S) alliance

This latest issue has come amid confusion over the BJP and the JD(S) contesting the still-to-be-announced local body polls together; the regional outfit is expected to hold talks with the saffron party after the first week of May

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular), which is learnt to be upset with its alliance partner, the Bharatiya Janata Party, for announcing its candidates to three Legislative Council seats 'unilaterally', is expected to hold talks with the saffron party after the first week of May.

The latest hitch in the alliance has come amid confusion over the BJP and the JD(S) contesting the still-to-be-announced local body polls together.

Seat talks: The BJP and the JD(S) had bickered over seat allocation in various elections in Karnataka earlier also. FILE PHOTO

Four seats

Of the four Legislative Council seats going to polls this November, the BJP earlier in March announced its candidates for North East Teachers', West Graduates', and South East Graduates constituencies, leaving the Bangalore Teachers' segment to the JD(S).

The BJP currently holds all the three seats, while the Bangalore Teachers' constituency is held by the Congress. The Election Commission of India is yet to notify the date of election.

Party sources said that Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy is expected to hold talks with the BJP Central leaders, including party president Nitin Nabin, in May.

"We will wait till the results of the five State Assemblies on May 4 to initiate talks with other leaders though back-channel talks are happening. The alliance partner announced the candidates without consulting us," sources said.

The JD(S) is learnt to be seeking South East Graduates' constituency currently represented by the BJP's Chidanand Gowda. However, the BJP has nominated K.M. Suresh for the seat, since Mr. Gowda is learnt to be keen on contesting the 2028 assembly election.

The regional outfit has won the seat previously, and believes that it has a chance to win the seat again in November.

Sources said that the party, which lost the Bangalore Teachers' constituency to Congress candidate P. Puttanna, may not be able to wrest the seat from the Congress. Incidentally, Mr. Puttanna won the seat multiple times on the JD(S) ticket.

The two parties had bickered over seat allocation with the BJP finally relenting to the JD(S)'s demand. During the 2024 Lok Sabha election, Kolar constituency had become a bone of contention. In the 2024 Legislative Council election too, the South Teachers' constituency brought friction between the two.

Conflicting signals

Leaders of the two parties have been providing conflicting signals over an alliance for the yet-to-be-announced zilla and taluk panchayat elections and polls to five corporations in the Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Sources said that the party believes that the BJP left a seat where the JD(S) is weak and difficult to win, and kept the South East Graduates' constituency for itself where the party is stronger.

"Our concerns will be conveyed to the BJP's senior leadership. We believe the names have been announced by the party on pressure from the local leadership that is not happy with the BJP's alliance with the JD(S)," sources added.

16 MLC seats to fall vacant this year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In 2026, 16 Legislative Council seats will fall vacant that could tilt the balance in favour of the Congress in the 75-member Upper House. While four seats – two each from Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies – will fall vacant in November, seven seats to be filled up through elections in Legislative Assembly will fall vacant in June.

Besides, five government-nominated members will retire in July. Currently, the ruling Congress has 37 members while the BJP and the JD(S) have 29 and seven seats respectively. One seat is held by an independent besides Chairman Basavaraj Horatti.

Internal reservation: Nomadic and micro communities to question latest matrix in court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Having lost another opportunity to receive a separate category to benefit from internal reservation among Scheduled Castes, 49 untouchable nomadic and 10 micro communities have decided to continue the case in the High Court of Karnataka and also challenge the latest Cabinet decision on internal reservation through additional petitions.

A meeting of the Federation of Untouchable Nomadic Communities of Karnataka on Monday decided to continue its legal fight to secure a separate category in internal reservation for 59 communities. 'Swabhimani Samavesha', a convention has been planned in the last week of May in Bengaluru to put forth the demands.

"The Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) has cheated the nomadic communities by not keeping his promise of providing 1% reservation to them and has not announced any package or a separate development corporation," the federation said.

The government has not provided a fair share in internal reservation to the nomadic communities, it said.

> The Chief Minister (Siddaramaiah) has cheated the nomadic communities by not keeping his promise of providing 1% reservation to them and has not announced any package or a separate development corporation
>
> **FEDERATION OF UNTOUCHABLE NOMADIC COMMUNITIES OF KARNATAKA**

While the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission recommended a separate category with 1% reservation to 49 nomadic and 10 micro communities in internal reservation within the 17% reservation for Scheduled Castes, the Congress government modified the recommendation by scrapping the 1% reservation.

It decided to add these 59 communities in Category C along with relative well-off touchable communities of Bhovis, Lambanis, Koramas, and Korachas.

At a special Cabinet meeting on Friday, the government fixed another matrix providing 5.25% each to Dalit Left and Dalit Right in Category A and Category B, respectively. Category C has been provided with 4.5% within 15% reservation for Scheduled Castes.

Incidentally, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that one in five jobs meant for Category C will be reserved for these communities. The federation on Monday, however, said that it will question the latest matrix, besides pursuing the case for a separate 1% reservation.

"Getting 20% share within the 4.5% reservation to Category C is a lie," it added.

Among the other demands include a separate development corporation for the welfare of nomadic communities and a ₹500 crore special package for the development of these communities. The federation has also demanded earmarking 5% in the allocation for the special component plan.

From Page One

Mangaluru cooker blast case: Convict gets 10 years RI

Investigations revealed that the accused had planned to plant the IED at the Kadri Manjunatha Temple, but the device detonated prematurely.

Radicalisation and IS links

According to the NIA, Shariq had been radicalised into the ideology of IS by associate Arafath Ali, who is already serving a six-year sentence in the Shivamogga IS conspiracy case.

Shariq allegedly conspired with co-accused Syed Yasin and a foreign-based IS handler to carry out terror activities aimed at creating fear through IED attacks. He was also involved in raising funds for the terror outfit.

Use of fake identities

The investigation found that Shariq had forged identity documents, used fraudulently obtained SIM cards and bank accounts for terror financing, and frequently changed mobile phones to evade detection.

He had reportedly established a hideout in Mysuru, where explosive materials were procured and assembled. He also conducted reconnaissance of potential targets across Mangaluru, Davangere, and Udupi.

Past criminal links

Shariq had come under the radar in 2020 for allegedly painting pro-IS graffiti in Mangaluru and was later named in the 2022 Shivamogga IS conspiracy case.

Mohammed Shariq FILE PHOTO

The court found him guilty under multiple sections, including section 121A IPC - conspiracy to wage war, section 122 IPC - collecting arms with intent to wage war, section 326 IPC - causing grievous hurt with dangerous weapons and relevant provisions of UAPA

During sentencing, Shariq sought leniency, citing family hardship and requested transfer to Shivamogga prison, stating it would be closer to his home. He also claimed to be suffering from prolonged sleep issues.

The court, however, rejected his plea and upheld the 10-year sentence and fine.

The case was initially registered by the Karnataka Police before being taken over by the NIA, which uncovered a larger IS-linked module operating in the region. Explosive materials were seized from Shariq's Mysuru hideout, and multiple arrests were made.

The NIA said further investigation into the broader conspiracy was going on.

Cabinet reshuffle should take place and everyone should get opportunity: Dinesh

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has said that there were several seniors and experienced leaders in the Congress and they should also get an opportunity in the Cabinet reshuffle.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Speaking to pressperson in Dharwad on Monday, Mr. Rao said that no one should think of remaining a Minister permanently. "It has been already three years since this government came to power. The Cabinet reshuffle should take place and the remaining legislators also should get an opportunity. It is expected that the party high command and the Chief Minister would take a suitable decision and it will soon be implemented," he said.

'Not a disgrace'

Mr. Rao said that those who lose the ministerial berth should not treat it as a disgrace. "One should have a large heart to accept that everyone should get an opportunity. We are all party's disciplined soldiers and we will accept the high command's decision," Mr. Rao said.

Replying to a query, he said that the Cabinet reshuffle was now in the high command's court and the Deputy Chief Minister, Ministers, and legislators would abide by it. "There is no need for anyone else to interfere in the matter," he said.

On Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi's statement that there was confusion in the party, Mr. Rao clarified that there was no confusion on internal reservation. "All Ministers have consented to the decision on internal reservation. It is a proof that we all are together and will proceed together," he said.

'Basava Sri' award for HDD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda on Monday said that there has been a general decline in all aspects of society.

"Those with knowledge are cynical about the system. We are witnessing a decline in all aspects of society. Pro-people movement has reduced," he wrote to the Basava Samiti that selected him for the 'Basava Sri' award.

'Keep middlemen outside'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday urged officials to keep middlemen outside their office.

"Do not allow them inside your office. Ask them to go out if they come. To prevent harassment from middlemen, direct benefit transfer (DBT) was introduced in guarantee schemes," Mr. Siddaramaiah said, after inaugurating the renovated building of the KAS Officers' Association.

He also urged officers not to delay the clearance of files since it would breed corruption. He also said that officials should have common sense and awareness about the society along with legal knowledge. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda were present.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at the inauguration of the renovated building of the KAS Officers' Association in Bengaluru on Monday.

BJP seeks cancellation of pro-Umar Khalid event in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) petitioned the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner on Monday seeking the cancellation of an event organised in support of activist Umar Khalid, who has been accused of conspiracy under terror laws.

A delegation led by P.C. Mohan, MP for Bengaluru Central, expressed concern over an event being planned under the banner of 'Umar Khalid Prapancha', which aims to show solidarity with Khalid, who is currently under arrest under anti-terror laws.

The party stated that while the Union government has been taking stringent action against Naxal activities across the country, 'Urban Naxal elements' continue to operate and allegedly support anti-national activities.

The letter noted Khalid faces serious charges and has been denied bail for an extended period,

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOSS OF ORIGINAL PROPERTY DOCUMENTS

I, Shri N. R. Nagendra Rao, S/o Late A. Rangappa, aged about 65 years, residing at No. 20, 6th Cross, Balajinagar, Thigarlapalya Main Road, Peenya, Bengaluru – 560058, hereby inform the general public that the original Mother Deed and Sale Deed pertaining to my property have been lost/misplaced while shifting my residence. The loss was not noticed earlier and has come to my attention recently.

The details of the said Sale Deed are as follows: Registered on 11-09-1996, bearing Registration No. 1027/1996-97, Book-1, Volume 1144, Pages 3 to 5, at the Office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Bhadravathi.

Property Details: Site No. 30, Property No. 593/A, situated at New Hosasiddapura, Ward No. 28, Bhadravathi, Shivamogga District, measuring East-West 30 feet and North-South 50 feet, with Khata No. 1674-3202/1.

I hereby declare that the above-mentioned original documents are not in my possession and are presumed lost. If any person finds or comes across these documents, they are requested to kindly return the same to the above address or hand them over to the nearest Police Station.

Any person having any claim, objection, or interest in respect of the above property based on the said documents is requested to contact the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that no such claims exist.

Sd/- A. Srinivasa Reddy, Notary
Dated: 28.04.2026
Bangalore.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-08/214/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement portal from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works :

Name of the Works : 1) Formation of Roads, levelling of park area and Construction of drain, culverts, compound wall at the premises of M/s HAMUL in Subalyout-4 Of Hassan Growth centre industrial area, Hassan. **2)** Establishment of Plug & Play Infrastructure for Manufacturing / Assembly of Electricity Vehicle Component, battery pack assembly, charging infrastructure and testing centre at plot no.1B of EV Block, Harohalli 5th Phase Industrial Area, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District.

The last date and time for receipt of tender is : **14.05.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/387/NR/2026-27 **Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru**

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-295048 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 07/2026-27 Dated : 23-04-2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4** form The Total no of works is 3, **H/A : 5054-80-190-0-01-132 KRDCL Works** Minimum estimated cost is Rs. 300.00 lakhs, maximum estimated cost is Rs. 450.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	From 24-04-2026 to 08-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	30-04-2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	08-05-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	11-05-2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	18-05-2026 morning 11.00 am

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:70:2026-27 **PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.**

Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict, now a lawyer

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A.G Perarivalan, one of the life convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case who was released on remission in 2022, donned the black robes on Monday. He was enrolled into the Bar Association of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry and will practise as an advocate in the Madras High Court. The Supreme Court on May 18, 2022, invoked its extraordinary powers to do complete justice under Article 142 of the Constitution and ordered the release of Mr. Perarivalan in the former Prime Minister's 1991 assassination case.

The top court took into consideration Mr. Perarivalan's long incarceration for over 30 years to order his release. Earlier, his death penalty was commuted to life sentence. Terrorism charges were also withdrawn.

Soon after his release from prison, Mr. Perarivalan joined LLB course in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Law College, Bengaluru, Karnataka Law University, and completed the course in 2025. He cleared the All India Bar Examination the same year.

Asked how he got interested in becoming a lawyer, Mr. Perarivalan said his long legal battle while in prison inspired him to study law and become an advocate. "My focus will be more on cases relating to anti-death penalty cases human rights," he told *The Hindu*.

SC rejects ex-Minister's plea in evidence tampering case

Kerala HC had rejected Antony Raju's plea to suspend his conviction to fight polls; SC had earlier restored criminal proceedings against him over allegations of 'interference with judicial processes'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a special leave petition filed by former Kerala Minister Antony Raju against a Kerala High Court decision to not suspend his conviction in an over two-decade-old case of forging and planting material evidence.

In March, the High Court had refused to accept Mr. Raju's argument that his conviction should be suspended owing to the "special reason" that he was a former Transport Minister and was contesting the Assembly elections. He said he risked losing his candidature in the polls if the conviction was not suspended.

No relief: The case involving the former Minister dates back to 1990 when he was a junior lawyer handling a narcotics case. FILE PHOTO

The High Court had reasoned that the right to contest an election was not a fundamental right. It had said that conviction would be suspended only in exceptional circumstances.

In 2024, the top court had restored the criminal proceedings against Mr. Raju, noting that the case at hand involved "serious allegations of interference with judicial processes which strike at the very foundation of both dispensation and the administration of justice".

The top court judgment had ordered the case records to be returned to the files of the Judicial First Class Magistrate-I, Nedumangad, which was the jurisdictional court. The case dates back to 1990 when Mr. Raju was a junior lawyer in a narcotic drugs case involving an Australian national. He is accused of tampering with the material evidence that was seized in the drugs case.

5 killed as crane collapses at workshop of construction firm near Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Five workers were killed and nearly 10 injured after a crane collapsed at a construction company's workshop at Shankarpally near Hyderabad on Monday.

The deceased have been identified as Ali Hussain, Nagendra Singh, Sajim, Mukesh Kumar and Sonu Rajibi, hailing from Bihar and Jharkhand.

An officer from the Shankarpally police station said workers from Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, and Uttar Pradesh were working at the site in Mahalingapuram village in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district. Several of them had taken shelter in a shed when the crane fell on the structure.

"Preliminary inquiry revealed that strong winds and rain around 4 p.m. caused a gantry crane to move, collide with another crane and collapse on them. We have to verify this," said the officer.

Fatal fall: The crane that collapsed onto a shed at a village in Rangareddy district of Telangana on Monday. SIDDHANT THAKUR

Naidu announces ₹500 crore financial support to AU

Paul Nicodemus
VISAKHAPATNAM

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced ₹500 crore financial support to Andhra University, calling for the transforming of the university at its Centenary celebrations, themed "Century of Excellence... Paving Path to the Future", held on Monday at the College of Engineering grounds in Visakhapatnam.

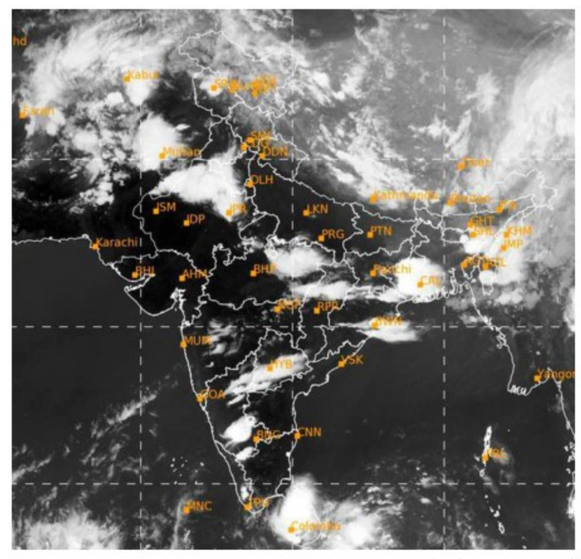
Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, the chief guest, described the university as "a melting pot of ideas" that had nurtured generations who contributed to the nation. Recalling the legacy of Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, he said, "The philosopher-statesman's vision of education continues to shape both intellect and character." He noted that Andhra Pradesh was emerging as a preferred destination for investment, with Visakhapatnam poised to become a hub for data centres, information technology and digital infrastructure.

Tribute to founding V-C

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer traced the origins of the university to early demands for a separate institution for Telugu-speaking regions, culminating in its establishment in 1926. He paid tribute to founding Vice-Chancellor Cattamanchi Ramalinga Reddy and other educationists who laid its foundation.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Odisha and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	44	26.5	19.6	Kozhikode	—	37.2	29.0
Ahmedabad	—	44.2	28.4	Kurnool	—	42.5	30.3
Aizawl	26	25.3	16.8	Lucknow	—	40.3	24.8
Allahabad	—	44.2	26.9	Madurai	—	40.4	27.1
Bengaluru	—	36.3	24.6	Mangaluru	—	34.4	26.6
Bhopal	—	43.4	26.8	Mumbai	—	34.3	27.6
Bhubaneswar	—	36.5	27.6	Mysuru	—	37.2	22.6
Chandigarh	—	40.2	20.8	New Delhi	—	42.3	25.0
Chennai	—	38.1	27.6	Patna	—	33.0	24.4
Coimbatore	—	38.6	25.4	Port Blair	—	33.4	26.7
Dehradun	—	37.9	21.7	Puducherry	—	35.2	27.2
Gangtok	0.1	19.4	13.9	Pune	—	42.1	26.8
Goa	—	34.9	28.4	Raipur	—	44.2	30.4
Guwahati	5	26.9	20.9	Ranchi	—	40.2	25.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	23.0	Shillong	27	16.5	11.6
Hyderabad	—	41.4	28.5	Shimla	—	31.4	19.2
Imphal	3.1	21.4	16.8	Srinagar	—	28.5	11.9
Jaipur	—	43.5	30.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.0	26.7
Kochi	—	33.2	28.6	Tiruchi	—	40.3	27.4
Kohima	—	18.0	14.0	Vijayawada	—	39.2	26.8
Kolkata	—	34.1	28.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.8	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.60	.37	.16	...70	...134	
Bengaluru	...8	.11	.35	...167	...175	
Chennai	...4	4	.32	75	71	
Delhi	.57	134	.61	...246	...306	
Hyderabad	.21	.25	.31	62	85	
Kolkata	.17	.14	.48	39	51	
Lucknow	.12	.30	.20	...188	...154	
Mumbai	..—	.29	.15	...242	...210	
Pune	..—	.24	113	58	89	
Visakhapatnam	.37	.42	.23	39	...120	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Meerut, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 282 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
ನಂ.32, 1ನೇಮಹಡಿ, ರೇಸ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಭವನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು– 560001, ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–29901193
ಇಮೇಲ್: mdkmvstdc@gmail.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: https://kmvstdcl.karnataka.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಮವಾಪಪಂಅನಿ/ಸಿ&ಆ/ಸಿಆರ್88/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.04.2026
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (KPPP Portal, GoK ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಮಹರ್ಷಿ ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮದ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ **ಗ್ರೂಪ್ "ಸಿ" ಮತ್ತು "ಡಿ" ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ** ಹೊರ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಲು ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹೊರ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು **13.05.2026, 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು **20.05.2026, 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.04.2026ರಿಂದ** ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https:/kppp.karnataka.gov.in**ರಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/–
ಪ್ರಧಾನ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ಕ.ಮ.ವಾ.ಪ.ಪಂ.ಅ.ನಿ.ನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/CP/YC/375/2026-27

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi
Ref. VTU/BGM/SAP/CW1/02/T-740/2026-27/416 dtd.27-04-2026
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites (two cover systems) e-tenders for the following work through e-procurement tendring mode. Name of work: Tender for Printing and supply of Main Answer Booklets for forth coming examinations to VTU Examination Section, Belagavi. Amount put to tender : Rs.3,48,46,000/-. EMD Rs.5,25,000/-. Tender Pre Bid Meeting Date.29-04-2026 at 11.00 a.m. through online. Last date for receipt of tender 25-05-2026 up to 2.30 p.m. Date of opening of tender: 26-05-2026 at 4.00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the e-Tendring can be accessed by logging to our VTU website: www.vtu.ac.in and KPPP portal website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/-Registrar
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-162/KSMCA/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Special Division, 2nd Floor, 19th Main, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560 010.
No:EE/SD/TEND/02/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026
Invitation for Short Term Tender Notification (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPPP only)
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
The Executive Engineer (Special Division), BWCC, Bengaluru invites bids for the following services from reputed Service Provider for the below service.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Selection of a Professional Consultancy Firm for Programme Management and Strategy Support for Bengaluru West City Corporation. **Estimated Amount in Crores (Including GST) : ₹ 3,67,73,520/-, EMD Amount in ₹: 4,00,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Documents from KPP Portal: **30.04.2026, (2)** Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting on **06.05.2026 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date and Time for uploading tenders in KPP Portal on : **30.05.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date and Time of Opening Technical Bid on : **01.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date and Time of Opening Financial Bid on : **02.06.2026 at 4:30 p.m.** (if possible).
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Special Division, BWCC.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1,
1st Floor, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052
No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/164/2026-27 Date: 27.04.2026
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)
This is to inform the general public and all concerned that below mentioned tender notifications issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 10.03.2026 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.
1. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/21/2025-26
2. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/25/2025-26
DIPR/CP/389/NR/2026-27 **Sd/- Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML**

Government of Karnataka
Town Municipal Council Office, Shikaripura-577427
Shivamogga District, Karnataka State.
Phone No.: 08187-222221, 08187-223861
e-mail: Ka.shikaripura.tmc@gmail.com
No.: S.T.P./Personnel/e Tender/02/26-27 Date: 24.04.2026
Tender Notification
(Through Public Procurement Portal of GoK)
Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal of GoK as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000 and Karnataka Standard Documents from eligible contractors/agencies registered for current period for the below mentioned work/material/machinery under General Fund of Town Municipal Council, Shikaripura. Contractors/Agencies interested in participating in the e-procurement tender can obtain further information and details from https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and participate in the tender.
Short-Term Tender

Sl. No.	Indent NUMBER	Estimate Amt.(in Lakh)
	Genera Fund	
1	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 57386	15.00 lk
2	DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 57131/CALL-3	5.00 lk

*) Last date for obtaining information regarding the Tender:28.04.2026: Time: up to 17.30 Hrs. *) Last date for submission of tender: 02.05.2026: Time: up to 17.30 Hrs. *) Date of opening the Technical Bid of Tender: 04.05.2026: Time: at 10.30 Hrs. *) Date of opening the Financial Bid of Tender:04.05.2026:Time: at11.00Hrs.

Tender

Sl. No.	Indent NUMBER	Estimate Amt.(in Lakh)
	Genera Fund	
1	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT54184/call-2	13.00 lk
2	DMA/2025-26/SE7050/CALL-3	49.16 lk
3	DMA/2025-26/SE7049/CALL-3	47.65 lk
4	DMA/2025-26/SE6995/CALL-3	49.67 lk

*) Last date for obtaining information regarding the Tender: 04.05.2026: Time: up to 17.00 Hrs. *) Last date for submission of tender: 08.05.2026: Time: up to 17.00 Hrs. *) Date of opening the Technical Bid of Tender: 11.05.2026: Time: at 10.30 Hrs. *) Date of opening the Financial Bid of Tender: 11.05.2026: Time: at 11.00 Hrs.
Sd/-Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Shikaripura
DIPR/smg/KSMCA/No.26-27/127/04/137

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to bring to the notice of General Public that my client Mrs. B. M. Ashwini and Sri Sravan CPS has negotiated to purchase several lands in Nelaguli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk Bangalore District mentioned here under. Sy. No. 40/2 measuring 0 Acre 15 Guntas,Bounded by East:Property of Nanjunda Setty, West: Govt. Kodihalla, North: Property of Seller, South:Property seller,Sy.NO.40/6 measuring 0 Acre 12 Guntas,bounded by East:Property of Seller, West: BWSSB Pipeline, North: property of Sridevi Dairy Farm, South:Property of Seller, Sy. No. 40/7 measuring 0 Acre 14Guntas.Bounded by East: Property of Sridevi Dairy farm, West: Property of seller, North: property of Sridevi Dairy farm, South:Property seller, Sy. No. 39/1 measuring 1 Acre 06 Guntas bounded by East: Property of Nanjunda Setty, West: Govt. Kodihalla, North: property of Seller, South: Property seller and Syno.39/2 property. Sy. No. 40/3 measuring 0 Acre 16 Guntas Property of Nanjunda Setty, West: Kodihalla, North: property of Seller, South: Property seller, from its absolute owner Sri. S.Raja Vikrama, Smt. Padmavathi.

Any person/s having any right, claim or interest, whatsoever over the above described survey numbers shall lodge their objections/claims with relevant documents, to the undersigned within 10 days from the date of this publication, after which our client will proceed with further transactions to purchase the schedule property and no claims will be entertained after the said period.

With digital signed by Srinivas S.N. Advocates
NO.30,1st Floor,5th Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore -560009
Ph.9008300611

KARNATAKA STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY (KSOU)
Mukthagangothri, Mysuru - 570006.
No: KSOU/Dean (AC) /CW-07/Ph.D./8390/Sub File-4/2025-26 Date: 27.04.2026
NOTIFICATION
Admission to Ph.D. Programme 2025-26 (Regular Mode)
Ref: (1). UGC Public Notice F:No.2-1/2017(DEB-III) Dated 14.09.2018. **(2)** KSOU Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Ordinance 2012 (4th Amendment 2023). **(3)** Approval of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dated: 04.04.2026.
Applications are invited in the prescribed format from eligible candidates for admission to the Part / Full time Ph.D. Programme in the following Department of Studies and Research.
● Kannada ● English ● Hindi ● Telugu ● Sociology ● Economics ● Political Science ● Commerce ● Management ● Chemistry ● Geography ● Environmental Science ● Information Technology
Common Entrance Test (CET) ● Eligible Candidates shall appear for Common Entrance Test (CET) ● Candidates who have qualified **UGC/UGC-CSIR, JRF Test/NET/GATE/GRE/M.Phil** shall be exempted from appearing to CET; however they shall appear for interview/viva voice.
Centre for Common Entrance Test (CET): Karnataka State Open University, Mukthagangothri Campus Mysore only.
Payment of Fee: Download application available in KSOU website along with online payment of Rs.2000/- (Rs.1000 for SC/ST/Cat-1) towards application processing fee through KSOU admission portal. Duly filled application should be submitted along with the attested documents either in person or by post to;
The Chairperson, Department of Studies and Research in....., Mukthagangothri, Mysuru - 570006.

IMPORTANT DATES

Details	Date
Ph.D. Application available in the website date	28.04.2026
Last date for submitting Application without penal fee	15.05.2026
Last date for submitting Application with penal fee of Rs.500/-	21.05.2026
Common Entrance Test date	07.06.2026
CET Results Declaration date	15.06.2026
Announcement of selection list	22.06.2026
Counselling for Supervisor Allotment	29.06.2026

Visit KSOU official website **www.ksoumysuru.ac.in** for more details including Ph.D. Prospectus, Application fee structure, seat matrix, syllabus, question paper pattern, eligibility details of the CET and other information.
Sd/- Registrar

Govt.of Karnataka
Taluk General Hospital Kudligi
No/tgh/k/Tender/09/2026-27 Date:16.04.2026
Publication of e-tender
Tender are invited through e-procurement in Two cover type for the Supplyof Diet Food prepared and Good Quality Bread at Taluk General Hospital, Kudligifor the year 2026-27. Interested and eligible tenderers are requested to submit tender through e-procurement platform within the specified time.
e-Tender No.: **TGH/K/TENDER/DIET/09/2026-27.** E-Procurement Tender No: **DHFWS/2026-27/IND2430.** Commencement of downloading of e-Tender forms from website: **http:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in Date: 21-04-2026 to 05-05-2026evening @ 05.00 p.m.** Last Date for seeking clarification if any: **Date:04-05-2026 up to 12:30 pm.** Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform: **Date:05-05-2026 evening @ 05.00 P.M.** Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Tenders: **Date:07-05-2026 @ 11.30 a.m in the office of the Chief Medical Officer , Taluk General Hospital, Kudligi through e-procument platform.** Tender Value: **Rs. 70,00,000/-.** EMD: **Rs.1,40,000/-**
Tenderers registered in e-procurement can get information about tender processing fee, EMD, tender form etc., through the Karnataka Government e-procurement portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital Kudligi, Vijayanagara-Dist
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/49

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" Survey No.8, (B.E.P Premises), Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajaji Nagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010.
Tel: 080-22024000, e-Mail: mdkrdcl@gmail.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com.
No. KRDCL/IFB/2026-27/6/270 Date: 27.04.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDCL] invites bid from reputed Consultants for Providing Consulting Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) based on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) detail are as below:

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate Length	EMD Amount
1	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for "improvements to Sh-10 from Maharashtra Border to Andhra Pradesh Border via Aland-Gulbarga-Malakhed-sedam Ribbanpalli (whagdhari- Ribbanpalli Road) in Gulbarga District"-Call-3	130.77 Km	Rs. 30,000/-

1. Interested applicants can view and download the complete proposal document from Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and also submit the bids online on the same portal. **2.** The Technical proposal, along with EMD and financial Bids are to be uploaded on KPP Portal as per the instructions in the RFP document. **3.** Pre-Bid meeting is on **04.05.2026 at 15.30 Hrs** at KRDCL Head Office, Bengaluru. Pre bid Queries, if any shall be submitted **on or before 02.05.2026 at 17.30 Hrs** through KPP portal/ e-mail: **cekrdcl@gmail.com. 4.** Bids must be submitted online only through KPP portal **on or before 11.05.2026 upto 17:00 Hrs. 5.** Technical Bids will be opened on **12.05.2026 at 17:15 Hrs. 6.** Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject allot any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Note: Further, any addendums/ clarifications/ calendar of events regarding the bid documents will be published/ uploaded only on KPP portal.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, KRDCL, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/AAA/370/2026-27

Gang of seven

Large-scale defections have rendered the Tenth Schedule impotent

On April 24, seven of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s 10 Rajya Sabha members announced their merger with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Rajya Sabha Chairman has accepted their claim of merger, raising the BJP's strength in the Upper House to 113 and the combined strength of the National Democratic Alliance above the halfway mark for the first time. The episode highlights the nature of AAP, the crass opportunism of the turncoats, the machinations of the BJP, and the institutionalised defanging of the anti-defection law. Of the seven, Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Swati Maliwal were part of AAP in an organic manner, to the limited extent that it had an identity beyond the whims of its founder, Arvind Kejriwal. For the other four, their exit is as opportunistic as their entries into AAP were. Mr. Kejriwal used to taunt the Congress for losing its legislators to the BJP in several States, as symptomatic of the erosion of its ethical responsibility. But a relentless campaign of anarchy in pursuit of power exposed the true character of AAP as a far cry from its grand claims. The disintegration of its Rajya Sabha contingent is the culmination of the cynicism and opportunism on which AAP thrived, imposing a heavy cost on the democratic institutions of India. It reaped what it sowed.

That is no reason to ignore the brazen misinterpretation – invoked by the gang of seven and accepted by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha – of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, which bars the defection of elected representatives from their original party. The merger exception in the Schedule is clear that a party can merge with another, subject to the concurrence of two-thirds of its legislators. In 2023, the Supreme Court of India elaborated that the legislature party cannot dictate the course of the political party, and the two cannot be conflated. Two-thirds of the members of the legislature party of the original party must accept a merger for it to be valid under the anti-defection law. To turn this around and argue that two-thirds of a party's legislative members can cross over to another party without attracting disqualification is a stretch, and is being challenged in the Court by AAP. The Court's past interventions on similar developments are less than reassuring, sadly. Elected governments have been unseated on the back of large-scale defections, rendering the Tenth Schedule impotent in the recent past. That the Court could not set any deterrence to this open betrayal of popular mandates is borne out by the fact that such acts are being repeated with impunity.

Culture of violence

Proliferation of guns in U.S. has given a deadly edge to political disagreements

A gunman breached security and fired shots at the annual dinner gala of the White House Correspondents' Association in Washington DC, which included U.S. President Donald Trump and other senior administration officials, all of whom escaped unharmed. The suspected shooter, said to be Cole Tomas Allen (31) of Torrance, California, was arrested. This is the third incident of violence apparently targeting Mr. Trump, after a previous occasion on which a would-be assassin's bullet grazed the president's ear at a campaign rally, and another in which a gunman was apprehended near a golf course frequented by Mr. Trump. The suspect in this case is said to have "clearly stated" that he wanted to target administration officials, according to the White House, and in a note by the suspect shared by law enforcement officials, he said that he could no longer allow a "traitor to coat my hands with his crimes". The incident comes in the wake of several high-profile attacks on political figures in recent years. These include the September 2025 killing of Charlie Kirk in Utah, the murder of Minnesota Democratic State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband a few months earlier, and the 2022 attack on Paul Pelosi, the husband of former Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. It also comes after more than a year of Mr. Trump's second term in office, a period marked by increasing polarisation over key policies, including immigration, and his association with disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

While bitter partisanship has long marked U.S. politics, it is the ubiquitous proliferation of guns that has truly supplied a deadly edge to disagreements in the public discourse. Ironically, the Trump administration has been at the forefront of efforts to protect the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, to the point where it is often in alignment with the position of the National Rifle Association (NRA) in terms of reversing reasonable restrictions on gun ownership. For example, Mr. Trump supported a ban on assault weapons in 2000, yet he reversed his position by the time he launched his 2016 presidential campaign, one that was backed by millions of dollars spent by the NRA. The U.S. has been periodically wracked by mass shootings, including three this year, and more than 500 over the past 60 years, according to databases tracking such incidents. Notwithstanding the deep pockets and lobbying power of the NRA and its ilk on Capitol Hill, it behoves the U.S. to take a step back from the brink of this unrelenting gun violence epidemic and bring common-sense gun reforms to the table, then to be enacted into law by Congress. Until such time as society and popular culture move towards a more moderate position on gun laws, it is reasonable to believe that violence of the kind routinely witnessed across the country will continue unabated.

Electoral roll purges raise constitutional questions

P.D.T. Achary

Former Secretary General, Lok Sabha

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has invented the term "logical discrepancy" to delete voters from the voters' list in the recent elections (the States of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry). It is alleged that lakhs of voters have been removed from the voter list in States where elections have been held recently. Even the Supreme Court of India's innovative idea of tribunals could not get these voters back onto the list, mainly because of the near-total mess created by the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise.

It has been pointed out by many commentators – including this writer in this daily – that the SIR, as designed by the ECI, is deeply flawed and, if continued, will result in the elimination of a very large number of Indian citizens from the electoral roll. Media reports indicate an alarming situation, particularly in West Bengal, where lakhs of genuine citizens have had their names removed from the electoral roll and placed under the category of "logical discrepancies". The fact is that many of them were unable to vote in the election/first phase of the election.

Citizenship as basic requirement

The issue of the elimination of people from the voter list revolves around the question of citizenship. Article 326 enjoins that every person who is a citizen of India and who is not less than 18 years of age and who is not disqualified under the Constitution or law shall be entitled to be registered "as a voter at any election". Thus, citizenship is the basic requirement for anyone to be registered as a voter.

The citizenship law is administered by the Union Home Ministry. Therefore, it is the duty of the Ministry to announce the list of documents required to prove the citizenship of Indians. However, as far as is known, the Ministry has not issued any such list.

Instead, the ECI announced a list of documents at the time of initiating the SIR in Bihar. Since many documents that citizens normally use for various purposes, such as Aadhaar card, ration card, and even the photo voter identity card issued by the ECI itself, were not accepted by the ECI as proof of citizenship, people began running helter-skelter in search of the documents listed by the ECI. Many of such documents were hard to find, especially for rural people who are not in the habit of preserving such documents. Thus, as many as 91 lakh voters were removed from the voter list in West Bengal because they could not produce the documents that the ECI required to prove their citizenship

> Voter deletions under the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls raise concerns over constitutional and procedural validity

Duty of the Home Ministry

A question of great constitutional significance arises here. Does the ECI have the power under Article 324 to determine what documents the citizens should produce to prove their citizenship? The simple answer is that such power is vested in the Union Home Ministry, and it is the constitutional duty of the Home Ministry to announce publicly the documents required for this purpose. The ECI can only verify those documents while enrolling citizens in the voters' list. Here, the ECI is acting beyond its jurisdiction. Article 324 does not empower the ECI to usurp the power of the Home Ministry. But it is surprising that the Supreme Court did not address this question when the issue of documents came before it. It was expected that the Court would direct the Union government to announce the list of documents and submit an affidavit in this regard. Instead, the Court merely requested the ECI to consider whether the Aadhaar card could also be counted as a relevant document.

The SIR has been conducted in the election-bound States, deviating from the law. Section 21 in The Representation Of The People Act, 1950 says that the electoral roll shall be revised before each general election and before a bye-election and also in any year as directed by the ECI. Apart from these the ECI can also undertake a special revision of the roll of a constituency or part of it for reasons to be recorded. Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 explains that the revision can be done summarily or intensively, which makes it clear that pre-election revision is summary in nature and the revision done in any year (when there is no election coming up) is intensive.

A combined reading of Section 21(2) of The Representation Of The People Act, 1950, and Rule 25 of the Registration of Electors Rules makes it clear that only a summary revision of the rules can be done before the general election or any bye-election.

The intensive revision can be done at any other time when elections are not due, the reason being that such a revision is very comprehensive and the voters' list needs to be prepared afresh. It is a very time-consuming exercise and cannot be done in such a hasty manner. The SIR conducted by the ECI a couple of months before the Bihar election, and, thereafter, in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is thus a clear deviation from the law and past practice.

In West Bengal, where the SIR exercise was absolutely chaotic, over 91 lakh voters have been removed from the voter list, many of whom have been placed in the category of "logical discrepancy". This categorisation of citizens is unknown to the election law. The Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 lays out a detailed scheme for the preparation of the electoral roll. Besides, the ECI has issued detailed instructions, one of which is that the booth-level officers (BLOs) should distribute enumeration forms to all existing electors through house-to-house visits.

Rule 8 clearly states that the occupants of the dwelling houses shall furnish the information called for to the best of their ability. This should mean that the ECI will have to accept the information that the occupants of the house have collected to the best of their ability. It makes no sense for the ECI to insist on obtaining information that, in the normal course, is not possible to procure, particularly for unlettered rural people in remote parts of the country. The fact that 64 lakh voters in Bihar and 91 lakh in West Bengal were removed from the voters' list amply demonstrates the deliberate non-adherence to this and other rules by the ECI.

An instance of violations

The object of this hastily conducted SIR seems to be to remove millions of voters from the voters' list. Media reports suggest that much of these deletions have been done without giving those affected a hearing, which is a blatant denial of natural justice as well as a violation of statutory provisions. Free and fair elections cannot be ensured by deviating from or violating the statute. The justice system in the country cannot permanently turn a blind eye to it.

A tightening of the fist in India's digital public square

Vikram Raj

Journalist associated with the Internet Freedom Foundation

Imagine this. You leave a sharp, satirical comment on social media or under a news article about rising fuel prices, and it gets a few likes. A few hours later, the comment disappears. The platform does not explain. Your account remains, but you notice that posts on similar topics no longer appear publicly. You have not been charged with any offence. No court has issued an order. Yet something has quietly shifted.

This is not a far-fetched scenario. It is a plausible outcome under the draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules released by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on March 30, 2026. Presented as technical clarifications, the changes mark a deeper transformation in how speech is governed online and who gets to decide its limits.

Core area of concern

At the centre of concern is a proposed expansion of executive power that risks bypassing Parliament and the courts. One provision, Rule 3(4), would require platforms to comply with a wide array of government-issued instruments, including advisories, directions and standard operating procedures, as a condition for retaining "safe harbour" protection under Section 79 of the IT Act. In plain terms, platforms would be legally safer if they follow government instructions, even when those instructions do not arise from formal law.

This sits uneasily with the Supreme Court of India's landmark ruling in *Shreya Singhal vs Union of India* (2015), which held that platforms are only required to act on unlawful content when they receive a court order or a government notification grounded in law. By allowing informal directives to trigger compliance obligations, the draft rules appear to dilute that constitutional safeguard.

The likely result is not targeted moderation but broad over-censorship. Faced with uncertain and potentially unpublished directives, platforms will err on the side of removal. It is the predictable logic of risk management. When liability is unclear, speech becomes expendable.

> The draft amendments to India's Information Technology Rules trigger fears of digital overreach and a departure from existing judicial rulings

A second shift expands the scope of state oversight far beyond traditional publishers. Amendments to Rule 8 bring ordinary users who post or share news and current affairs content within the ambit of the government's oversight mechanism. This includes the Inter-Departmental Committee, a body empowered to review content and recommend blocking.

This is not merely an administrative adjustment. It reintroduces, through a different route, a regulatory framework that has already faced judicial scrutiny. In 2021, the Bombay High Court stayed key provisions of the IT Rules, citing concerns under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The Madras High Court later observed that such oversight could undermine media independence. Those challenges remain pending. Yet, the new draft effectively reconstructs the same architecture while those questions are unresolved.

An undefined role

Equally troubling is the transformation of the Inter-Departmental Committee itself. Originally designed to address grievances, it is now empowered to examine any "matter" referred by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The term is left undefined. A procedure is currently in place under Rule 14 but compliance remains an issue. There is no clear threshold for intervention, and no guarantee that affected users will be heard before action is taken.

This shift from grievance redress to proactive scrutiny changes the character of the body. It becomes less a forum for dispute resolution and more an instrument of preemptive control.

The third major concern lies in expanded data retention obligations. The draft clarifies that platform duties to retain user data operate in addition to requirements under any other law. In practice, this could mean that personal data, browsing activity and communication records are stored for extended periods, potentially years, depending on overlapping legal mandates.

The risks here are not abstract. Longer retention increases the surface area for misuse, whether through unauthorised access, data breaches or function creep. It also alters the relationship between citizens and digital spaces. When every interaction may be archived indefinitely, self-censorship follows naturally.

Taken together, these amendments signal a shift toward a model where executive discretion plays a dominant role in shaping online speech. The concern is not only about individual provisions but about their cumulative effect. Each change reinforces the other. Informal directives gain force through safe harbour rules. Oversight expands to include ordinary users. Data retention deepens the state's informational reach.

Upsetting the balance

Supporters of the policy may argue that governments require flexible tools to manage harmful content. That is true in principle. But constitutional systems impose limits on how that power is exercised. Delegated legislation must remain within the bounds of its parent statute, a principle affirmed in cases such as *Indian Express Newspapers vs Union of India* (1986). When rules begin to create new obligations that are not clearly grounded in law, the balance between regulation and overreach begins to tilt.

The short public consultation period, which ended on April 14, only heightens the concern. Changes of this magnitude deserve wider debate, legislative scrutiny and careful alignment with existing judicial rulings.

India's digital public sphere has grown precisely because it has allowed a diversity of voices, from professional journalists to ordinary citizens. That openness has always required some regulation. The question now is whether the new rules preserve that openness or narrow it through administrative control.

The answer will shape not only how platforms operate but also how freely citizens can speak, critique, and participate in public life.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bite of the serpent

Snake bites are often treated symptomatically when antivenom serum is not readily available, and such treatment is often unsuccessful. Even when antivenom is available, its effectiveness against the specific venom involved in the bite is questionable. Reporting snake bites along with the species involved would be helpful in preparing species-specific antivenom serum to be used in a strategic manner. There are tribes traditionally involved in snake rescue in different States, and many times they are not readily available for the job. They can also be encouraged to train prospective snake rescuers.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

I write this letter as Assistant Professor of Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, Government Medical College, Ongole. India bears the world's highest burden of snakebite mortality, yet it continues to rely largely on polyvalent antivenoms designed for a limited set of species. This approach overlooks significant regional variation in venom composition, often resulting in suboptimal efficacy, higher dosing requirements, and adverse reactions. Identifying the 'offending' species through rapid tests will have limited clinical impact unless matched by equally precise, venom-specific therapeutics. There is a need to invest in venomics-based research and in the development of regionally tailored or monovalent antivenoms. While such efforts are resource-intensive, they are justified by the scale of mortality and economic loss associated with snakebites.

Dr. K.A.R. Reddy,
Ongole, Andhra Pradesh

Raghu Rai

The passing of Raghu Rai reminds us that photography can be both witness and conscience. His lens chronicled wars, tragedies and captured portraits of leaders and ordinary citizens with equal empathy, turning fleeting moments into enduring truths. Rai believed that every frame carried meaning, and his work proved that history is not only written but also seen. His images of the Bhopal gas tragedy, Operation Blue Star, and the quiet dignity of everyday life remain etched in the nation's memory. They will teach generations that light and shadow are not just technical elements but reflections of human resilience. India has lost a visionary who revealed its soul through images.

K. Chidanand Kumar,
Bengaluru

Raghu Rai was a poet among photographers who told heart-touching verses through the frames he captured. His photograph, the 'Burial of an Unknown Child', is a haunting image that captures the horror of the 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy.

M. Pradyu,
Thalikkavu, Kannur, Kerala

Raghu Rai was an institution in himself. Two of his iconic images are still alive in my memory — Indira Gandhi's body lying in state, surrounded by red roses, her sari covering her head, and her distinctive nose pointing upwards, just before her funeral, which was on the front cover of *India Today*.
The second was of a dead child partially buried in rubble, which was a haunting image of the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Saurabh Sinha,
Bhilai, Chhattisgarh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Can middle school students engage with AI?

Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar
Chairman, Review Committee for NEP 2020, Ministry of Education and former Chairman, UGC. Views are personal

Recently, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) decided to introduce a Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum for classes 3-8, which will begin from the 2026-27 academic session. CT skills generally refer to abstraction, decomposition, pattern recognition, and algorithmic thinking. These skills are required to reason about intelligent systems and to understand how machine learning differs from rule-based computation. As with any transformational reform in education, it is necessary to examine the practicality of introducing computational concepts to middle school learners. Will it align with age-appropriate pedagogy for engaging with emerging digital and computational environments?

Global precedents

One first has to examine whether CBSE's curriculum clearly links CT and AI, since such a relationship is conceptually necessary. The foundational design principle behind the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Commission's AI Literacy Framework identifies CT as a precursor to AI learning. This framework recommends CT competencies across age bands beginning from early primary school. Similarly, the AI4K12 Initiative in the U.S. places CT-related competencies at the base of its "Five Big Ideas in AI." Their CT-competencies progression plan spans K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade bands. The CBSE's sequencing broadly aligns with these comparative curricular architectures. However, its curriculum is designed independently in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE), 2023.

UNESCO also identifies topics such as "What is AI?", "Foundations of computing", and "Data literacy" as necessary for school students. Learners need to start cultivating logical thinking from an early stage and gradually build problem-solving skills. They also need opportunities to develop a basic understanding of AI as part of their broader digital learning.

Tackling inherent risks

There are, of course, risks associated with children interacting with AI. The CBSE curriculum includes introductory discussions on AI fairness, responsible use, and digital safety. This focus is broadly consistent with cross-national practices. For instance, the AI4K12 guidelines include topics such as recognising when AI systems may mislead; identifying bias in datasets; and distinguishing between AI and human capabilities across all age groups. But can children meaningfully engage with such content at a young age? Classroom-based interventions, including studies conducted in U.S. middle schools, led to interesting outcomes. They suggest that learners in the 11-13 age group can engage with AI ideas when supported by structured pedagogical interventions. These studies reveal that introducing ethical dimensions of AI at this stage can be pedagogically feasible.

A growing body of empirical research suggests that introducing concepts such as supervised learning or predictive modelling is viable for learners in the 11-14 age group. Many comprehensive research studies on AI in K-12 education suggest that school-age participants as young as 10-12 years can work with fundamental AI concepts. Thus, the CBSE's CT-AI framework appears compatible with the learning capacities observed in this age group.

Many international initiatives encourage the use of no-code tools for introductory AI learning. Multiple empirical studies show that by using such tools, middle school learners can design, build, test, and reflect on their projects without coding. For this reason, the CBSE's expectation that Class 8 students can attempt to solve real-world problems using no-code tools is supported by several international initiatives.

However, children may start attributing human-like traits or capabilities to AI tools, although these tools do not actually possess them. Does the CBSE curriculum address this challenge by creating awareness among children? The CBSE's curriculum contains topics discussing ethical use, fairness, and responsible digital behaviour. Such discussions can help reduce children's misconceptions about AI. These modules can support better understanding and the prudent use of AI systems.

The CBSE curriculum follows a cross-disciplinary design by integrating CT into Mathematics and 'The World Around Us' course for Classes 3-5. Global experiences which involved cross-disciplinary instructional models reported improvements in students' reasoning and problem-solving in several contexts. The CBSE's pedagogical orientation reflects similar design principles.

Away from rote learning

One problem in Indian education is the habit of rote learning. CT and AI learning have the potential to encourage inquiry-driven, reflective learning rather than traditional rote-based methods. The CBSE curriculum emphasises practical modelling, reflection, and ethical reasoning. This approach can therefore contribute to ongoing efforts to move classroom practices away from rote-based methods.

International practices and available research suggests that middle school is an appropriate stage to introduce foundational CT-AI elements. The CBSE's CT-AI curriculum is structured to make thoughtful and effective use of this developmental stage in learners' growth, and it exhibits coherence with the vision of the NEP 2020.

The CBSE curriculum includes introductory discussions on AI fairness, responsible use, and digital safety. This focus is broadly consistent with cross-national practices

No rest for the wicked

Even as the State comes down from its election high, tensions are still rising

STATE OF PLAY

T. Ramakrishnan
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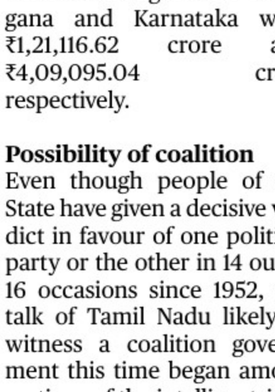
The period between the date of polling and the date of counting votes should normally be quiet. But, in Tamil Nadu, which saw a record voter turnout of 85.1% with about 4.88 crore people casting their votes on April 23, an intense debate is on about a host of issues.

The issues vary from the advisability of Chief Minister M.K.Stalin taking a holiday in Kodaikkanal to the comparative performance of Tamil Nadu with other southern States with respect to the Information Technology (IT) sector to the possibility of a coalition regime getting formed due to the presence of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) led by actor C. Joseph Vijay.

The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) former State president and the party's candidate for Mylapore, Tamilisai Soundararajan, in a post on her social media handle, criticised the holiday of Mr. Stalin, and the visit of his son, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, along with his family to an overseas country. She recalled that it was the same Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party that had levelled criticism in the 1950s against then Chief Minister K. Kamaraj's trip to Udhagamandalam.

But what is becoming more controversial is the conversation around the ruling DMK's contribution to the IT field and reported criticism among sympathisers of the ruling party about sections of young employees in the sector not being loyal to the organisation in view of their perceived support to the TVK. With respect to the IT sector, pro-DMK activists are quick to point out that the seeds for the present situation in the State were sown by the DMK regime in the 1990s when Tamil Nadu became the first State in the country to come out with a policy document on the sector in 1997. However, critics refer to the wide gap in the value of exports recorded by Tamil Nadu vis-a-vis its two southern neighbours, Telangana and Karnataka, and question whether any purpose is served by just claiming to be the trendsetter. According to information furnished in the Lok Sabha during March 2025, Tamil Nadu's IT exports in 2023-24 were ₹80,677.43 crore whereas the figures for Telangana and Karnataka were ₹1,21,116.62 crore and ₹4,09,095.04 crore respectively.



Possibility of coalition

Even though people of the State have given a decisive verdict in favour of one political party or the other in 14 out of 16 occasions since 1952, the talk of Tamil Nadu likely to witness a coalition government this time began among sections of the intelligentsia in the last phase of the poll campaign. As the TVK is an untested force with no consensus among experts as to whose votes it will take away in the event of the fledgling party making a dent, the talk has acquired greater strength. Known for their opposition to the idea of a coalition regime, the two Dravidian majors are confident of victory on their own. The recent entrant is also hoping to capture power on its own. The last occasion when the State witnessed a three-cornered contest was in 1989, the first election after the death of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) founder M.G.Ramachandran. At that time, the DMK bagged a clear-cut majority on its own. The front led by the party secured 170 seats with a vote share of about 38% while the AIADMK (Jayalalithaa)-led coalition bagged 32 seats with 24.4% of votes polled. The Congress alliance got 27 seats with 21.4% of the vote share. There was also one more front headed by AIADMK (Janaki Ramachandran) which got one seat but with a vote share of 10.87%.

Even though leaders of all the parties have greeted the people for the record voter turnout this time, there is an element of jubilation in the message of the TVK chief who has sought to view the turnout as an endorsement of him. Possibly, his enthusiastic portrayal is based on the visible presence of younger generations turning up to vote, which is, however, not uncommon in any poll in the State. At the same time, the two Dravidian majors are sure of their success and, according to a leading Tamil daily, they are even preparing themselves for the swearing-in ceremony. Regardless of all these points and counterpoints, what is becoming apparent is that the grip of the bipolar system over the State is receiving pushback, and the two established players will have to come to terms with the third force, which may not turn out to be a pushover.

BJP's rapid rise in Assam is more pronounced in ST seats

The 2026 results will reveal if the BJP will retain its ST-seat stronghold or concede ground to the Congress that is trying to bounce back

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Devyanshi Bihani

As the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) waits for the counting on May 4 to see if it will retain power in Assam for a third consecutive term, a look at the Assembly polls since 2006 in the biggest northeastern State shows how sudden the growth of the BJP has been and how the growth is more pronounced in the seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes (STs).

Assam has a total of 126 seats, of which 16 are reserved for the STs, who account for 12.4% of the State's total population of 3.12 crore as per the 2011 Census. Until 2006, the BJP had not won a single ST seat in Assam in any of the Assembly polls.

In the 2006 Assembly elections, the BJP, which had by then been in power at the Centre for the first time, from 1998 to 2004, won three ST seats and 12 seats overall **(Chart 1)**. In the 2011 polls, its performance worsened as it could win only five seats overall and none of the ST seats.

The BJP's rise to power at the Centre in 2014 had a huge impact in Assam as can be seen in the sudden and massive upturn in its fortunes in the 2016 Assembly polls **(Chart 2)**. Its rise coincided with the erosion of vote shares of not just the Congress, its major rival, but also other regional parties like the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), which had once ruled Assam.

From drawing a blank in all the 13 ST seats it contested in 2011, the BJP managed to win eight of the 10 ST seats in 2016. It had roped in the AGP and the Bodoland People's Front (BOPF) into the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as minor allies. The coalition together won 14 out of the 16 ST-reserved seats. In 2021, though the hit rate of the BJP (seats contested versus seats won) came down overall, it managed to increase its tally in ST seats by winning nine of the 10 seats it contested.

Meanwhile, the Congress-led alliance, which is fighting the 2026 polls under the banner of the Asom Sonmilito Morcha (ASM), was gradually losing its footing within these seats. In 2001 and 2011, the Congress won eight and nine ST seats out of the 12 and 16 it contested respectively **(Chart 4).**

The Congress-led alliance's decline and the BJP-led NDA's ascent is revealed better in the vote shares of the two national parties, besides the seats they managed to win. As **Chart 5** shows, Congress managed to regain some of its lost ground in terms of its overall vote share in Assam in 2021 even though it did not win. However, its vote share in the ST seats was still lower than what it had secured in 2006.

Moreover, the vote share of the BJP in ST seats has seen a steep rise from a meagre 7.1% in 2011 to 41.7% in 2016 and a whopping 54.4% in 2021.

Fight for ST status

The 2026 results will reveal if the BJP will retain its stronghold in the ST seats or concede ground to the Congress that is desperately trying for a comeback in the State.

Interestingly, the demand for ST status to six communities, including the Tai Ahoms, the Adivasi 'tea tribes', Chutia, Koch-Rajbanshi, Matak, and Moran, who together account for roughly 30% of the State's population is getting louder, a demand that the winning party has to reckon with.

During the BJP's 2014 Lok Sabha campaign, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised that ST status will be granted to these communities. However, the BJP is yet to fulfill the promise despite being in power in the centre and winning two consecutive terms in Assam.

With the granting of ST status being a key promise of the ASM in the 2026 polls, the results on May 4 will reveal if this promise has resonated with these communities.

Tribal turnaround

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Dhaba, a project of the Trivedi Center for Political Data, a research centre led by faculty members in the Political Science and Computer Science departments of Ashoka University

CHART 1: Seats contested by the BJP-led alliance versus seats won in ST-reserved Assam Assembly constituencies

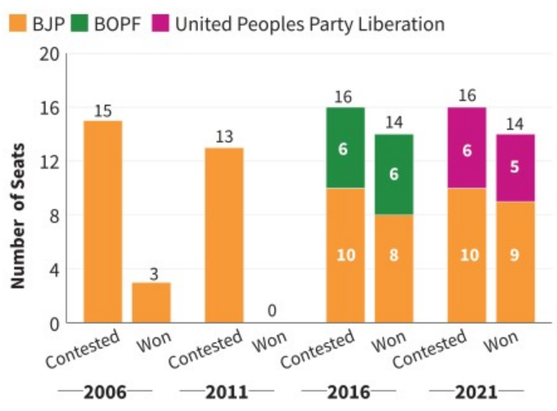


CHART 2: Seats contested by the BJP-led alliance versus seats won in all Assam Assembly constituencies over the years

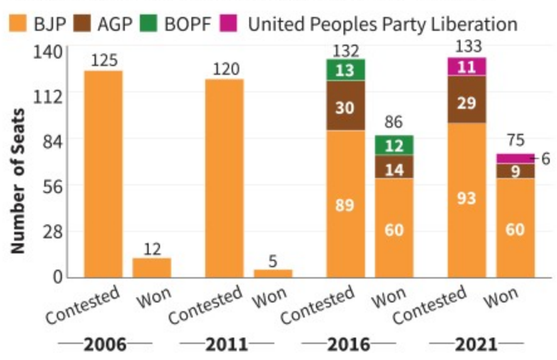


CHART 3: Seats contested by the INC+ alliance versus seats won in all Assam Assembly constituencies

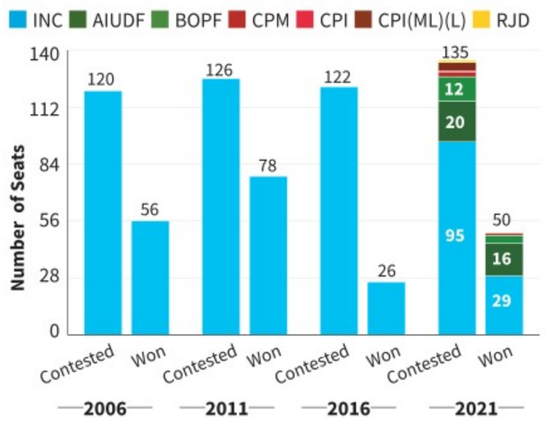
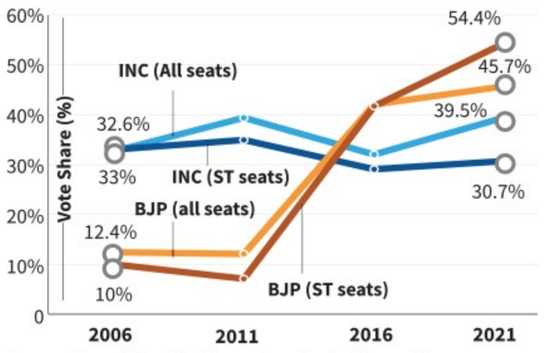


CHART 4: Seats contested by the INC+ alliance versus seats won in ST-reserved Assam Assembly constituencies

CHART 5: Alliance-wise vote shares in the Assam Assembly polls across all constituencies and ST-reserved constituencies



In some Assembly polls, the seats contested by an alliance may exceed the total available seats of 126. This is due to 'friendly fights' between alliance partners

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 1976

Ground water potential in Coromandel Belt

Madras, April 27: An integrated inter-disciplinary approach should be made to the development of the entire coastal belt between Tiruvanmiyur and Mahabalipuram, Mr. M. S. Balasundaram, former Director-General, Geological Survey of India, said here to-day.

Presiding over a workshop on "Groundwater Potential in the Coromandel Series of Rocks along the East Coast" he said the series could be taken as a single unit and investigation conducted in an integrated manner by all disciplines. The approach to development should cover land utilisation, urbanisation, groundwater exploitation and the like.

The workshop was organised by the GSI to place before experts in various official agencies the data collected by it on the groundwater potential in the Tiruvanmiyur Covelong belt. Since the water crisis of 1975, one million gallons of water is being drawn daily from this source to meet a part of the needs of Madras. Cautioning against large-scale pumping of water from the belt, Mr. Balasundaram said one had to ascertain first what quantity could be drawn safely without seawater interference and without the aquifers getting contaminated. He felt the data gathered over a year would not be adequate for arriving at a "safe conclusion". Inaugurating the workshop, Mr. S. Panchanathan, Chief Engineer (Groundwater) Public Works Department said that with the almost full utilisation of surface water resources groundwater had assumed great importance for Tamil Nadu.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 28, 1926

Giant motor caravans for Gwalior

London, April 27: "The Westminster Gazette" says that two giant motor caravans for hunting purposes, capable of accommodating 16 persons fully furnished and lit by electricity, which had been ordered by the late Maharaja of Gwalior, are being shipped to India from England this week. The front portion of so-called "Flat-a-van" consists of a vehicle driven by 50 H.P. Engine and in which eight people can dine at once. Behind is a trailer equipped with a dormitory. The whole outfit is 45 feet long, weights ten tons and costs £3,000.

From Page One

India, New Zealand sign 'historic' free trade deal

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon – in a statement read out by Mr. McClay – said that during a time of global uncertainty, this FTA is a clear commitment by both sides to a stable, predictable and rules-based trade. "And the India-New Zealand story is about more than trade," Mr. Luxon said. "New Zealand and India are building a relationship that is bigger, deeper and more exciting every year – across trade, investment, defence, sport, and innovation."

India's exports to New Zealand grew 32.1% in 2024-25 to $711.1 million, the latest full financial year for which there is data. Imports from New Zealand grew 75.2% to $587.1 million over the same period.

Gains beyond trade

"This FTA is far more than an agreement on tariffs and rules of origin," Mr. Goyal said. "It is a comprehensive framework spanning market access, agricultural productivity, investment, and mobility, designed to benefit manufacturing, farmers, artisans, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, students, and skilled professionals across both nations."

Apart from the tariff concessions, the FTA also includes several provisions relating to the mobility of working professionals and students from India.

Mr. McClay expressed confidence that the deal would benefit New Zealander exporters substantially.

"This once-in-a-generation agreement delivers opportunities New Zealand exporters have never had in India," he said. "It will deliver thousands of jobs and unleash huge potential for our world-class exporters. Not only will it enhance established business relationships, it will accelerate the development of new partnerships to significantly boost economic engagement and bring benefits to both of our countries."

The FTA includes a provision wherein New Zealand has committed to facilitate $20 billion in investments into India over the next 15 years.

"Our Make in India flagship initiative offers synergy to New Zealand's investment commitment of $20 billion in India and delivers a vibrant partnership that goes beyond trade," Mr. Modi said in his statement.

Industry bodies and exporters welcomed the deal, saying it would open up new opportunities for India's exports in several key sectors.

Iran offers to open strait if U.S. lifts its blockade

Iran's ability to choke off traffic in the Strait of Hormuz has proved one of its biggest strategic advantages in the war.

The Iranian Foreign Minister, in a video interview posted by Iran's state-run IRNA news agency before his meeting with the Russian President, said that it was "a good opportunity for us to consult with our Russian friends about the developments that have occurred in relation to the war during this period and what is happening now."

Over the weekend, Mr. Araghchi made two stops in Pakistan and a visit to Oman, which shares the strait with Iran. He also spoke by phone with counterparts in Qatar and Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Iran wants to persuade Oman to support a mechanism to collect tolls from vessels passing through the strait, according to a regional official. The official, who is involved in mediation efforts, also said Iran insisted on ending the U.S. blockade before new talks and that Pakistan-led mediators are trying to bridge significant gaps between the countries.

Mr. Trump told journalists Saturday that after he called off a trip by his envoys to Pakistan, Iran sent a "much better" proposal.

Ladakh organisations seek meeting with Home Minister

Shah to visit Union Territory from April 30; activist Wangchuk says Centre should withdraw cases filed against 83 persons during last year's protest for Statehood and inclusion in Sixth Schedule; L-G announces creation of five new districts

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Ahead of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Ladakh, the Leh Apex Body (LAB), an amalgam of socio-political-religious organisations, on Monday advocated for a trust-building exercise and sought a meeting with Mr. Shah during his two-day tour of the Union Territory from April 30.

Top leaders of the LAB urged the government to convene a meeting of the high-powered committee, composed of members of it and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), set up under the chairmanship of Mr. Shah.

Activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been seeking Statehood and Sixth Schedule status for Ladakh, has underlined the need to build trust for "meaningful and constructive dialogue".

"We demand the unconditional withdrawal of cases against 83 people who were arrested after the September 24 incidents (protests for Statehood last year), including the members of religious organisations who had gone to stop the violence," Mr. Wangchuk said.

Vehicles torched by demonstrators demanding Statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion in the Sixth Schedule along a street near the BJP office in Leh on September 25, 2025. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seeks compensation

The LAB also demanded compensation to the families of four youth who were allegedly killed in security forces' firing in Leh in September. "Around 80 got crippled in indiscriminate police shootings, which were carried out without proper firing orders," the LAB said.

Mr. Shah is touring Ladakh for the first time since the Union Territory witnessed major street protests last year. He is scheduled to pay his respects to the holy relics of Lord Buddha on the occasion of Buddha Purnima on May 1.

Talks to resume

Ladakh Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Sunday announced the resumption of the Union Home Ministry-level talks with the civil society groups on May 22.

In a "confidence-building measure" ahead of Mr. Shah's visit, the Ladakh administration on Monday announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory.

"A historic day for Ladakh. I have approved the notification for creation of five new districts, fulfilling the aspirations and long-pending demand of the people of Ladakh," Mr. Saxena said.

He said with the creation of the new districts – Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zanskar and Drass – Ladakh will now have seven districts, from the existing two. "The development is aligned with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a developed and prosperous Ladakh," he said.

The L-G said this "transformative decision", already approved by the Union Home Ministry in August 2024, under the leadership of Mr. Shah, "would strengthen grassroots governance, decentralise administration and ensures faster delivery of public services to the people of Ladakh, especially those in remote and far-flung areas".

"I reaffirm my commitment to ensuring that every citizen of Ladakh benefits from this historic decision, as we move together towards a brighter, stronger and more prosperous future," he said.

Ladakh was carved out as a Union Territory from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. Besides Statehood and inclusion in the Sixth Schedule [that allows autonomous administration in tribal areas] of the Constitution, Ladakh has also been demanding the establishment of a Public Service Commission for Ladakh and the allocation of two Lok Sabha seats [from one seat at present] for the region.

Kejriwal refuses to appear before Delhi HC judge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Monday wrote to Delhi High Court judge Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma that he would not appear before her court in the Delhi excise policy case personally or through an advocate. On April 20, Justice Sharma had rejected Mr. Kejriwal's recusal plea.

"With complete respect for judiciary, I have written the following letter to Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, informing her that pursuing Gandhian principles of Satyagraha, it won't be possible for me to pursue this case in her court, either in person or through a counsel," Mr. Kejriwal wrote on X on Monday.

"The government of the RSS ideology imprisoned me through false allegations, the judge herself has acknowledged that she has repeatedly attended platforms of Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad, an organisation linked to that ideology. In such a situation, can I receive justice before her," he asked.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said Mr. Kejriwal's conduct suggested he was acting as 'his own lawyer, witness and judge'.

Home Secretary reviews security situation in Manipur amid unrest

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Amid fresh unrest and killings in Manipur, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday reviewed the security situation in the northeastern State that has been affected by ethnic violence since May 2023.

The security vacuum created due to the withdrawal of around 8,500 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) for deployment during the West Bengal election, frequent disruptions and blockade by women groups and new areas of conflict between Kuki and Naga communities were among the issues flagged at the meeting, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

Around 36,000 security forces, including Assam Rifles, have been deployed in Manipur since 2023.

Govind Mohan

The official said over 3,300 social media posts that incited violence had been taken down so far.

The meeting was held through video conference and was attended by Director, Intelligence Bureau, Tapan Deka; Manipur Security Adviser Kuldiep Singh; Manipur Director General of Police Rajiv Singh; Director General, Assam Rifles, Lt. Gen. Vikas Lakhera; Director General, Military Operations, Lt. Gen. Abhijit S Pendharkar and other senior State and Central government officials.

The official said nine additional columns of Assam Rifles had been inducted in the State since violence erupted in Naga-dominated Ukhrul district on February 7, three days after the President's Rule was revoked and a new Chief Minister Y. Khemchand Singh was installed in the State.

Since April 7, Manipur has witnessed 11 killings, including that of two children. The deaths and killings have been reported from Bishnupur district, a Meitei-dominated area, and Ukhrul, where a fresh conflict between Tangkhul Nagas and Kukis has emerged. On Sunday, Tankgkhul women groups tried to block the movement of Central security forces. The same day Meitei groups led by women tried to march towards the Chief Minister's residence in Imphal to demand justice for the children, leading to clashes with security forces, which left several injured.

The relocation of camps of Kuki-Zo insurgent groups in suspension of operation pact (SoO) with the government was discussed.

The possession of a huge number of looted police weapons by the United National Liberation Front – Pambei faction was flagged.

UNLF-P, the oldest armed Meitei insurgent group, for the first time signed a peace agreement with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Manipur government on November 29, 2023, months after ethnic violence between Kuki-Zo and Meitei people erupted in the State on May 3 the same year. The group operates from Myanmar and advocates for secession of Manipur from India.

Discussing Chabahar port issue with Iran and U.S., says Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Randhir Jaiswal

The Chabahar port issue is being discussed with both Iran and the United States, the External Affairs Ministry said on Monday, as India faces a crucial test of its strategic autonomy with the U.S. sanctions waiver having expired on Sunday.

New Delhi has two options of either exiting the 23-year-old project in the Iranian port city or facing U.S. sanctions.

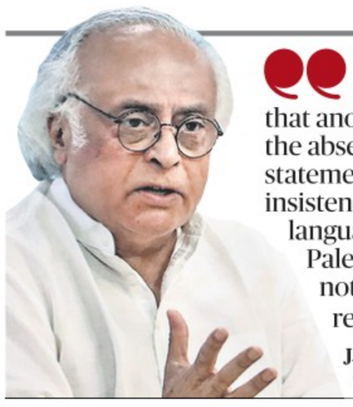
"The issue is under discussion with both Iran and United States. Obviously, the current conflict is also a complicating factor," Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "We will keep you posted as the situation evolves."

Washington granted New Delhi a six-month waiver last October to "wind down" Indian operations at the port and not face sanctions. Given the ongoing conflict and the U.S. seeking to tighten any economic avenue of Iran, Ministry officials said they were not hopeful of another extension.

As a result, the government has been exploring other options, which also includes transferring its stake in the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar to an Iranian company. This will give India the leeway to take control of the project at a later time.

Congress targets Centre over lack of joint statement after BRICS meet

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



> What is surprising and shameful is that another reason for the absence of a joint statement was India's insistence on softening the language on Israel and Palestine, which was not accepted by other representatives
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress general secretary

The Congress on Monday described as "shameful" the absence of a joint statement following last week's BRICS+ meeting in the capital, alleging that India's insistence on diluting language on Israel and Palestine prevented a consensus among member countries.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that India's position was unacceptable to several BRICS+ members, resulting in the failure to issue a joint communiqué after the April 23-24 meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys.

"Both Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] are part of the 11-member BRICS+, and their differing positions on the ongoing war in West Asia are natural. But what is surprising and shameful is that another reason for the absence of a joint statement was India's insistence on softening the language on Israel and Palestine, which was not accepted by the representatives of Russia, China, Brazil, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, UAE, and Iran," Mr. Ramesh said in his X post.

Mr. Ramesh alleged that India was "the only major country" continuing to show steadfast solidarity with Israel despite its actions in Gaza, southern Lebanon, and the occupied West Bank. "India's Prime Minister and Israel's Prime Minister are clearly soulmates, and now Israel has also become a significant part of the vast and exploitative Modani empire," Mr. Ramesh alleged.

West Asia war

Official sources, however, maintained that the lack of consensus stemmed from sharp differences among member states on the evolving situation in West Asia. They said India's position on Palestine "remains unchanged" and rejected suggestions that New Delhi had altered its stance.

A "chair's statement" was issued instead at the conclusion of the meeting, with India currently holding the BRICS Chair.

Nida Khan has Malaysia links, needs custodial probe, Nashik police inform court

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Nashik Police on Monday told a local court that Nida Khan, whom the police described as an absconding accused in the alleged TCS sexual exploitation and forced religious conversion case, needs to be interrogated in custody.

The court was hearing Ms. Khan's anticipatory bail application. "Her financial links need to be probed. Certain links with Malaysia and Malegaon were found. Her phone needs to be sent for forensic investigation," the prosecution told the court.

The police alleged that the victim's name had been changed to 'Haniya', and that religious reels were uploaded on her Instagram account.

Rahul Kasliwal

Ms. Nida's lawyer, advocate Rahul Kasliwal, argued that unlike Uttar Pradesh, there is no explicit law against conversions in Maharashtra, and that all the FIRs can be clubbed and probed together, adding that there is no requirement for custodial investigation.

During the in-camera hearing, both sides concluded their arguments. The court declined to grant interim relief to the accused and reserved its order for May 2.

Producing the case diaries, the prosecution told the court that the offence against Nida Khan was a serious one. Public prosecutor Ajay Misar submitted that the victim's statement has been recorded, in which she alleged the accused taught her to observe roza and offer namaz. Statements of her TCS colleagues have also been recorded. Mr. Misar said police have seized incriminating materials.

SC orders *status quo* in Asaram Trust land case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday intervened in the Gujarat government's plan to reclaim over 45,000 square metres of land occupied by the Sant Shri Asaram Trust in Ahmedabad to build sports infrastructure ahead of Commonwealth Games in 2030.

Imposing *status quo* till May 4, the Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the State had initially granted parcels of land on lease, only to challenge the leases and describe the occupation of the property by the Trust as encroachments. It found fault with the State for not complying with the "material particulars".

Campaign season ends, Bengal parties switch to silent mode

Nearly 3.21 crore voters across 142 constituencies and seven districts will determine the fate of 1,448 candidates when voting will be held tomorrow; Mamata, Suvendu Adhikari among key leaders in the fray; EC has stepped up security for the polls

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Final push: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during a roadshow in Kolkata on Monday; and (right) Union Home Minister Amit Shah campaigning in Kolkata. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Campaigning for the second and final phase of the West Bengal Assembly election concluded on Monday.

Nearly 3.21 crore voters across 142 constituencies and seven districts will determine the fate of 1,448 candidates when voting is held on Wednesday. The votes for the Assembly election will be counted on May 4. The first phase saw a record-breaking turnout of over 90%.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee were among the leaders who canvassed for their party candidates on the last day of campaign. Mr. Modi addressed an election rally at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district and declared that once West Bengal gets a Chief Minister from the Bharatiya Janata Party, both the Chief Minister and Prime Minister will work for the development of the State.

"You have given the Congress, Left Front, and Trinamool Congress 70 years. Now, give us a chance just once... Together, we will free West Bengal from all shackles," Mr. Modi said.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister released an audio message exuding confidence that the BJP would form the next government in the State. Mr. Modi said he would "celebrate the oath-taking ceremony together with the people". "Despite addressing so many rallies amid the intense heat, I did not feel even the slightest fatigue during this election campaign in West Bengal. These rallies, these roadshows... I felt as if I was on a pilgrimage," he said.

Shah's promise

Union Home Minister Amit Shah participated in the last leg of campaign in the Behala area of Kolkata, and said the Central Armed Police Forces would stay put in the State for 60 days and voters should not be intimidated. "Don't worry about *Didi's* [Ms. Banerjee] goons; the Election Commission has deployed CAPFs at every nook and cranny. Today, I'm saying it as I go – after the elections, a BJP government is coming. Even then, CAPFs will stay right here for the next 60 days," Mr. Shah said.

Ms. Banerjee held three roadshows during the day in different areas of the city – Dhakuria, Gariahat Road, and Hazra. Trinamool general secretary Abhishek Banerjee addressed public meetings in Haringhata and Dhaniakhali and held a roadshow in Arambagh, where tension erupted after an attack on the vehicle of Trinamool MP Mitali Bag.

Ms. Bag alleged that the BJP's "goons" had vandalised her car at Goghat in Hooghly district when she was on her way to the rally of Mr. Abhishek Banerjee. "Those who laid hands on a marginalised woman... after 12 noon on May 4, I will see how much power they have. I will see how your leaders from Delhi are able to save you," she said.

More incidents

Tensions were also on the rise in the Jagatdal constituency of North 24 Parganas after a clash between supporters of BJP candidate Arjun Singh and Trinamool candidate Somnath Shyam. The vehicle of Trinamool leader Saokat Molla was attacked at Bhangar in South 24 Parganas district. Similar allegations were made by Indian Secular Front (ISF) leader Nawsad Siddique in the same constituency. At several places in the districts going to the polls, crude bombs were recovered by the police.

The EC has put in place extensive security arrangements, deploying 2,321 companies of Central forces across seven districts.

Among key candidates in this phase are Ms. Banerjee and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, both contesting from Bhabanipur. Trinamool Ministers, including Firhad Hakim from Kolkata Port, Aroop Biswas from Tollygunge, Shashi Panja from Shyampukur and Bratya Basu from Dum Dum are others who will face polls.

The BJP has fielded Ratna Debnath, mother of the R.G. Kar victim, from Panihati and Matua leader Subrata Thakur from Gaighata. Senior BJP leaders in the fray include Tapas Roy from Maniktala, Swapan Dasgupta from Rashbehari and Ritesh Tewari from Kashipur Belgachhia.

CAPFs go 'all out' to win 'trust' ahead of last phase of Bengal Assembly polls

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Police and security personnel conducting a flag march and interacting with people in Purba Bardhaman on Monday. ANI

As West Bengal heads into the final phase of the Assembly election, the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have launched extensive patrolling operations named "All out, night dominance, *Kavach* (shield), trust" to ensure a secure polling environment, a CAPF official said.

More than 100 armoured and anti-riot vehicles have been deployed across sensitive areas to instil confidence among voters, the official said. The intensified security measures include round-the-clock area-domination exercises, night patrols and high-visibility movement of forces.

Approximately 2.4 lakh CAPF personnel have been deployed across the State for the last phase of polling on Wednesday, in addition to the State police. West Bengal has witnessed poll-related violence in the past.

Asked about the rationale of giving such an operational name for patrolling duties during an Assembly election, the official said, "All of us are out in the field to ensure that the elections are held in free and fair manner, that is why the name is 'all out'. Night dominance means that security forces are present in huge numbers and there is no need to be intimidated. There have been several instances when people have come to us and conveyed that they were able to vote after 20-30 years."

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has posted about such initiatives on social media platforms.

'Atmosphere of peace'

"OPERATION ALL OUT PHASE II Day-and-night patrolling and naka checking by CAPFs continue in sensitive areas. A strong security presence has fostered trust and an atmosphere of peace among the general public," said West Bengal Sector, CRPF, Kolkata, in a post on *X* on Monday.

Another post said, "Extensive flag marches and area domination operations are being conducted by Central Armed Police Forces during Phase-2 of the West Bengal elections. Objective – to build confidence among voters and ensure a fear-free environment."

At least 85 companies of CAPFs or around 8,500 personnel were withdrawn from the ethnic violence-affected Manipur and moved to West Bengal for the elections. A CRPF official said the force does not have personnel in reserve and to fulfill election responsibilities, troops were pulled out from Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur and Left-wing Extremism-affected areas.

Ahead of the first phase of elections on April 23, a district-wise list of around 1,100 'troublemakers' was circulated among the CAPF personnel across the State. The list, according to which detentions were to be made and warnings issued, mostly comprised people associated with the Trinamool Congress, including legislators. It was stayed by the Calcutta High Court.

Seizures of inducements in Bengal surpassed ₹510 crore: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the final phase of Assembly election in West Bengal on Wednesday, the Election Commission on Monday said total seizures of illicit inducements in the State surpassed ₹510 crore.

The amount is higher than the ₹339 crore seized during the 2021 election and also exceeds recoveries made in the State during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, a senior official said. The ₹510-crore recovery includes ₹30 crore in cash, over 48,000 litres of liquor worth ₹126.85 crore, drugs valued at ₹110.12 crore and precious metals, including gold and silver, worth ₹58.28 crore.

Enforcement agencies have also seized freebies worth ₹184.85 crore, including household items, apparel and cellphones.

Review meetings

The poll body said it held multiple review meetings with Chief Secretaries, CEOs, DGPs, and senior officers from the poll-bound States/Union Territories and their neighbouring regions, along with the heads of enforcement agencies. They were directed to ensure violence-free, intimidation-free and inducement-free elections, the EC said in a statement.

To ensure enforcement, over 2,728 flying squads have been deployed to respond to complaints within 100 minutes. Besides this, over 3,142 static surveillance teams (SSTs) have been deployed for *naka* checking at different locations. Special drives are being conducted against the manufacture, storage and distribution of illicit liquor, it said.

Mamata, Cabinet Ministers face tough poll contests in Kolkata and its suburbs

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Poll clash: Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim during a door-to-door campaign for the West Bengal Assembly elections. ANI

The second phase of the election to 142 Assembly seats in West Bengal on Wednesday will decide the fate of more than half a dozen Ministers along with Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee.

While Ms. Banerjee is locked in a bitter electoral contest for the Bhabanipur seat in south Kolkata against Bharatiya Janata Party leader Suvendu Adhikari, her Cabinet colleagues are contesting seats in and around the city.

Kolkata Mayor and State Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim is seeking re-election from the Kolkata Port constituency. Mr. Hakim, a prominent Muslim leader of the Trinamool Congress, is facing Rakesh Singh of the BJP and Faiyaz Khan of the Communist Party of India (Marxist).

Another prominent Minister facing the electoral contest is Aroop Biswas from Tollygunge. Mr. Biswas, who, as the Sports Minister, faced criticism for the chaos during an event of footballer Lionel Messi in Kolkata, is contesting against Papiya Adhikari of the BJP and Partha Pratim Biswas of the CPI(M).

Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, another senior Minister in the State Cabinet, is contesting the Ballygunge seat. Mr. Chattopadhay, who served as the Agriculture Minister, is pitted against Shatorupa of the BJP and the CPI(M)'s new face Afreen Begum.

In the northern parts of Kolkata, the Trinamool's Shashi Panja is contesting from the Shyampukur constituency against Purnima Chakraborty from the BJP and Jhuma Das from the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB).

On the northern fringes of Kolkata, Education Minister Bratya Basu is contesting from Dum Dum against Arijit Bakshi of the BJP and Mayukh Biswas of the CPI(M). In adjoining Dum Dum Uttar, Finance Minister (Independent Charge) Chandrima Bhattacharya is seeking re-election and is pitted against Sourav Sikdar of the BJP and Dipsita Dhar of the CPI(M).

Highest deletions

Kolkata and the adjoining areas have voted for the Trinamool across several elections in the past, but this time the candidates of the ruling party are facing tough contests from the candidates of the BJP and Left Front. There are 11 Assembly constituencies in Kolkata, which has seen the highest number of deletions during the special intensive revision of poll rolls.

Debasish Kumar and Atin Ghosh , key Trinamool leaders who are the party's faces in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, are contesting the Rashbehari and Kashipur Belgachia seats, respectively.

Of the 142 seats that are going to the polls in the second phase, 111 are in the Presidency region. These seats are spread across North 24 Parganas (33), South 24 Parganas (31), Nadia (17), Howrah (16), and Kolkata (11) districts. The Trinamool Congress won 96 of them, the BJP 14 and the others one in the 2021 Assembly election.

The Presidency Division is the bastion of the Trinamool Congress, though in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP increased its vote share in these districts and led in 21 Assembly segments, while the Trinamool was ahead in 90 seats.

The other two districts going to the polls in the second phase are rural Purba Bardhaman with 16 constituencies and Hooghly with 18 constituencies that comprises both urban and rural settlements. These regions had also overwhelmingly voted for the Trinamool Congress in 2021.

The deletions of electors during SIR, safety of women, welfare schemes of the Ms. Banerjee-led government, Matua citizenship, agrarian distress and 15 years of anti-incumbency sentiments against the Trinamool will seal the fate of the candidates.

Rajya Sabha Chairman accepts the merger of seven AAP MPs with BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Joining hands: Rajya Sabha members Raghav Chadha and others meeting BJP president Nitin Nabin in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat on Monday updated the party-wise list of members in the House, counting Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha and six others with the Bharatiya Janata Party, indicating that Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan has accepted their request to switch sides.

With the change, the BJP's strength in the Upper House has risen to 113 while the Congress, the largest Opposition party, remains a distant second with 29 members.

Welcoming the seven MPs in a post on X, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said: "For a long time, I have observed that these seven Hon'ble MPs have not resorted to abusive language and have never created indiscipline or indulged in unparliamentary conduct. Welcome to nation building NDA under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister @narendramodi ji and goodbye to the Tukde-Tukde INDI Alliance."

On Friday, seven of the AAP's 10 Rajya Sabha members – Mr. Chadha, Ashok Mittal, Sandeep Pathak, Harbhajan Singh, Rajendra Gupta, Vikramjit Sahney and Swati Maliwal – quit the party and submitted a letter to the Rajya Sabha Chairman informing him of their "merger" with the BJP.

The AAP reacted on Sunday with its Rajya Sabha leader Sanjay Singh filing a petition seeking their disqualification, calling the move a violation of the anti-defection law. "The Chairman has taken cognisance of the letter submitted by those seven MPs and, based on that, accepted their merger. The objections raised by us and the disqualification sought under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution have not even been considered," Mr. Singh said.

He added that the party hoped the Chairman would, after examining its submission, act "in favour of the Constitution and democracy" by disqualifying the seven members. "If that does not happen, we will approach the court. It is wrong to break a party in this manner," he had said.

Under the laid-down procedure, the Rajya Sabha Chairman is the final authority in deciding disqualification petitions.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said the Chairman's decision to accept the "merger" of the seven AAP MPs with the BJP was "not at all surprising". "In fact, the only surprise is that it took so long and was not formally accepted over the weekend. Small mercies make up Indian democracy now," Mr. Ramesh wrote on X.

Congress alleges AAP gave Rajya Sabha seats for money

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of being engaged in a "fixed match", alleging that recent political developments had exposed a tacit understanding between the two parties and reinforced its claim that the "AAP was working as BJP's B team" in the States such as Gujarat and Punjab.

Addressing a press conference here, party treasurer Ajay Maken alleged that the AAP had been giving Rajya Sabha ticket to the rich and wealthy in exchange for money and should thus change its name to the "*Arabpati Aadmiyon ki* Party (party of billionaires)".

Targeting the BJP, Mr. Maken said it had secured a disproportionate share of Rajya Sabha representation from Punjab despite having a limited electoral base in the State. He said the BJP had polled around 6% of the vote in the 2022 Punjab Assembly election, but following the defection of seven AAP Rajya Sabha members, its representation from the State in the Rajya Sabha had gone up to 86%.

He alleged that the AAP had worked as a proxy of the BJP to counter the Congress in States like Punjab and Gujarat. He alleged that the party's claim of representing the "common man" stood undermined and claimed that the average declared net worth of the seven AAP Rajya Sabha members who joined the BJP was over ₹818 crore, arguing that this reflected a pattern of privileging wealthy candidates.

Disqualify MLAs who cross-voted: BJD to Speaker

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The Biju Janata Dal on Monday met Odisha Assembly Speaker Surama Padhy and demanded the disqualification of eight MLAs who, it said, had voted against the party's decision in the Rajya Sabha election. "We also want these MLAs to tender their resignation on their own, and seek a fresh mandate from their respective constituencies," BJD Chief Whip Pramila Mallick said.

INBRIEF

Victims of power plant blast got compensation: Vedanta

Vedanta Power on Monday said it has completed the disbursement of compensation to the families of those killed and injured in an explosion at its power plant in Chhattisgarh on April 14. The blast left 25 people dead and several injured even as the company management and chairman Anil Agarwal are facing an investigation in a police case filed for allegedly causing death due to negligence. In a statement, the company said it had provided financial assistance of ₹35 lakh each to the families of the deceased, while ₹15 lakh has been disbursed to those injured. The compensation has already been released to all 35 affected individuals and families, it added.

PM's degree case: HC grants DU more time to file objections

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted Delhi University two more weeks to submit objections to the delay in filing appeals against an order refusing to disclose details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bachelor's degree. The court, on February 10, granted the DU three weeks to file its objections to the delay. The court was hearing appeals filed by Right to Information (RTI) activist Neeraj, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohammad Irshad against a single judge's August 25 order, which had set aside a Central Information Commission decision directing the disclosure of Mr. Modi's degree.

Digital library for Urdu literature launched

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Punjabi Wikimedians User Group has launched an Urdu Wikisource, a free, open source, global digital library for Urdu literature. The group has also urged the Punjab government to ease copyright restrictions, which continue to hamper access to regional languages in the digital domain.

Satdeep Gill, manager, content enablement, Wikimedia Foundation, said international partnerships provided the foundational content for the platform. "Rekhta Foundation, the Urdu literary repository, jump-started the project by sharing 10 rare Urdu texts, ensuring the platform launched with high-quality, culturally significant material. The British Library shared seven rare historical texts that were digitised as part of the 'Two Centuries of Indian Print' project [2016-2022], bridging the gap between the physical archives in London and digital accessibility for users in South Asia. These texts include *Alif Layla*, a book of Arabic fables, and a 19th century version of *Padmavat*, Malik Mohammad Jayasi's Awadhi poem," Mr. Gill said.

Rajnath in Bishkek for SCO meeting

Event brings together the Defence Ministers of SCO member states; Minister is expected to hold bilateral discussions with his counterparts

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday arrived in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, leading a high-level Indian delegation for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting on Tuesday.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Mr. Singh is expected to hold bilateral discussions with his counterparts from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, and other participating nations, aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and expanding strategic ties.

Sources in the Defence Ministry said the meeting would bring together the Defence Ministers of SCO member states to deliberate on key regional and global security challenges, international peace, counter-terrorism efforts, and enhancing defence collaboration within the grouping.

The discussions are being held amid ongoing geopolitical tensions linked to the West Asia crisis, with member countries likely to explore measures to mitigate the impact of the conflict on regional stability.

India connect: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with members of the Indian diaspora in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on Monday. PTI

The Defence Minister will underscore Indian stance of zero tolerance towards terrorism, extremism

During the meeting, Mr. Singh is expected to reiterate India's commitment to global peace and stability, while underscoring its firm stance of zero tolerance towards terrorism and extremism in the face of evolving security challenges.

Established on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai, the SCO is one of the largest regional organisations focusing on political, economic, and security cooperation. Its members are India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus.

India became a full member of the SCO in 2017 and assumed the rotating chairmanship in 2023, further deepening its engagement with the grouping.

NITI Aayog revamp shows tilt towards science and health

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The revamp of the NITI Aayog last week with a new set of full-time members shows a tilt towards technology and health sectors.

Usually, the choice for the think tank has leaned towards economists.

Three of the five new members – Abhay Karandikar, M. Srinivas, and Gobardhan Das – have had long careers in health, biotechnology, and science.

Mr. Karandikar, who is currently the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology, was previously the Director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and Professor of electrical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai.

Dr. Srinivas, until recently, was the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi.

Mr. Das, who is currently the Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal, was Professor, School of Molecular Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru University. He was also the BJP's candidate in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly election but quit the party prior to joining the institute in Bhopal.

Prime Minister Modi meets the newly appointed Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Ashok Lahiri.

One of the other two full-time members is an economist. K.V. Raju is currently member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. He specialises in agricultural policy, rural development, and water policy.

The other full-time member is Rajeev Gauba, a former Cabinet Secretary.

The NITI Ayog's newly appointed Vice-Chairman, Ashok Lahiri, is an economist. He was the Chief Economic Adviser from 2002 to 2007 and has served at several international policy institutions, including the World Bank and the IMF.

Like Mr. Das, he was a BJP candidate in the 2021 West Bengal election, the difference being that he won and is the MLA from Balurghat.

Punjab journalists' panel alleges censorship by AAP govt., plans stir in Bathinda

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Committee alleges intimidation, claims on copyright, and notices under the IT Rules to target critics

Independent journalists from Punjab alleged a systematic targeting of voices by the Aam Aadmi Party government in the State.

At a press conference on Monday, members of the Press *Di Azaadi Bahal Karo Sangharsh* Committee Punjab (Committee for the Struggle to Restore Press Freedom) said the State government was using intimidation, copyright claims, and notices under the IT Rules, 2021 to target critics online.

Facing FIR

"This is very dangerous for journalists, for free speech and for independent press," said Sahildeep Singh, who runs the Duniya Facebook page with more than 1.2 lakh followers. "If you speak on behalf of the government, then you are fine," said Maninderjeet Sidhu, who runs the Lok Awaz TV YouTube channel. "If you do journalism independently, then there will be an FIR against you."

The committee presented different takedown strategies used on them. Mr. Sidhu said his Facebook page was taken down in January following a spate of copyright notices sent for using pictures of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann – though these were taken from government media. (Mr. Sidhu has since recovered his account, following a case filed in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.)

One photo targeted by a takedown notice, he said, simply showed a white silhouette where only Mr. Mann's turban was visible.

Another journalist, Mintu Gurusaria, was proceeded against with an FIR for using flight tracking information to raise questions on who was flying Mr. Mann's helicopter when he was not even in the country at the time. (The FIR was withdrawn due to "pressure" from farmer and worker groups, Mr. Sidhu said.)

'Being crushed'

The committee said it was planning a protest in Bathinda on May 5. "It is not that there has never been any censorship for the media before this," Mr. Sidhu said. "But they are being crushed now."

SC takes *suo motu* notice of stabbing of woman advocate

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 38-year-old woman's husband, the prime accused in the case, was arrested, police say

The Supreme Court on Monday took *suo motu* cognisance of a brutal stabbing of a woman advocate, and directed the Delhi Police Commissioner to assign the investigation to a senior woman police officer.

A group of women lawyers, led by advocate Sneha Kalita, appeared before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to brief the court about the incident. They submitted that there were multiple wounds to vital parts of the woman's body, and three hospitals refused to take her in for critical medical care. She was finally admitted to the Trauma Centre at AIIMS, New Delhi early on April 23.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the police, said an FIR had been registered, and the 38-year-old woman's husband, the prime accused in the case, was arrested.

"Keeping all the attending circumstances and the fact that the victim is seemingly in dire need of financial assistance, especially to undergo treatment and to look after her minor daughters, we direct the National Legal Services Authority, to release an interim sum of ₹3 lakh in favour of the victim. The amount shall be transferred to her bank account forthwith, and in any case by tomorrow [Tuesday]," the order said.

U.S. Pacific Air Forces chief pays week-long visit to India to strengthen defence ties

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Commander of the U.S. Pacific Air Forces, General Kevin Schneider, visited India from April 19 to 25, reaffirming the U.S.'s commitment to strengthening its strategic defence partnership with India, and advancing a shared vision for a secure and stable Indo-Pacific, a statement by the U.S Embassy in India said on Monday.

During the visit, Gen. Schneider held discussions with senior Indian defence leadership, including officials from the Indian Air Force, aimed at reinforcing long-standing military ties and exploring avenues for operational collaboration.

The visit underscored the growing scope, complexity and interoperability of U.S.-India defence cooperation across multiple domains, including air, land, sea, space and cyberspace, the statement said.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Anil Chauhan calls on U.S. Commander Gen. Kevin B. Schneider in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

Both nations continue to deepen their defence partnership, with shared democratic values and mutual interests in maintaining regional stability, the statement said.

In recent years, India-U.S. cooperation has included joint exercises, training engagements, and high-level exchanges, improving the ability of both forces to operate together in diverse scenarios, it said.

The visit reaffirms the strength of the U.S.-India major defence partnership and signals continued momentum in expanding defence collaboration to address evolving regional and global challenges, it said.

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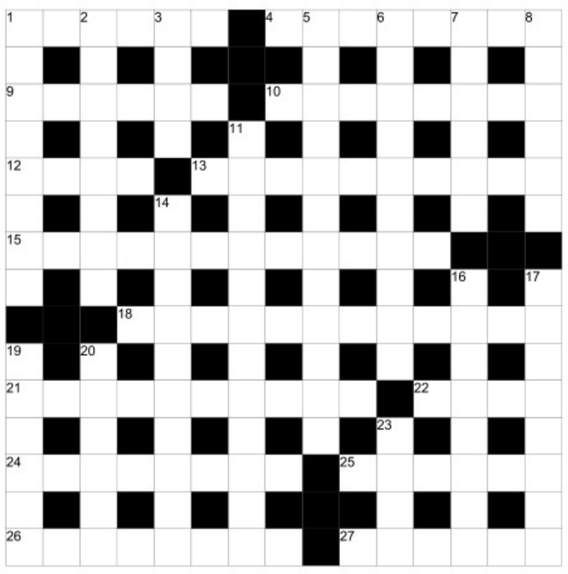
SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1. Want runs in the end (6)
4. After headers of Christiano Ronaldo, supporters start going crazy (8)
9. Did without common parking for hotel (6)
10. Mumbai Indians celebrity, reportedly aggrieved, eventually moved (8)
12. Stink from bit of rotten, unopened vegetable (4)
13. Initially unacceptable terms also accommodated in complete reversal (10)
15. Convey to American leader and escalate a crisis (5,2,1,4)
18. Instruction before young member of family takes foreign trip (12)
21. Keeps returning to dock around Ukrainian port (10)
22. Nag about missing half of practice (4)
24. Associates with criminal types (8)
25. Eggs in bird cage, nearly hundred in the beginning (6)
26. Banks maybe refusing loans, primarily pinching American customers (3,5)
27. Insists on letting out front part of roadside property (6)

DOWN

1. Give details of small rudimentary dwelling engulfed by river (8)
2. He's learned something that has no practical value (8)
3. Openings for trained, reliable, electrical engineers in plant (4)
5. One way to get more space in the attic - make a lot of noise (5,3,4)
6. Cheats and complains about suffering hard times in the end (4,6)
7. Consumes drug and drink after a bit of temptation (4,2)
8. Dignified boy staying away from heated debates (6)
11. Vehicle perhaps comes to outskirts of Raipur too (5,7)
14. Rage so often produces violent people (10)
16. Agree on disposal of files implicating popular American (8)
17. Produces fire and smoke basically (8)
19. Korean rapper, revolutionary soul (6)
20. Balanced playing eleven - left out MSD finally (6)
23. Girl failing to finish drink (4)

SUDOKU

	8		7		6			
4	7				2	6	1	
	5			4				
			1		8			7
	1						5	
9			3		5			
				6			9	
	6	5	4				8	1
			8		7		4	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

No.SS6864 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	9	4	5	8	1	7	2
8	4	7	9	2	1	3	6	5
2	5	1	7	3	6	4	8	9
9	2	6	5	1	3	7	4	8
4	3	8	2	7	9	5	1	6
1	7	5	8	6	4	9	2	3
5	8	4	6	9	7	2	3	1
6	9	3	1	4	2	8	5	7
7	1	2	3	8	5	6	9	4

FAITH

Muthukumaraswami's grace

Lord Murugan in the Vaideeswaran temple in Tamil Nadu goes by the name of Muthukumaraswami. Muthu means pearl. Lord Murugan should be seen as a precious, rare Acharya. Devotees lovingly refer to Him as Muthiah, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. Pamban Swamigal said that if we chanted the name of Muthukumaran, we would be blessed with all auspiciousness. Kumaran means One who is young. Murugan is always youthful. He is the One who helps us move beyond samsaric ties. Muthukumaraswami does not get an abhisheka every day, as is the norm in most temples. Only on the asterism of Kartika or during Kanda Shashti does He get an abhisheka. On all other days, abhisheka is done to an emerald Linga, which is kept in His shrine in the temple. Only after the abhisheka for the emerald Linga daily aradhana is offered to Muthukumaraswami. This demonstrates the tradition of offering respects to one's parents and honouring them.

During festivals, after Muthukumaraswami has been on a procession, He is left in the shrine of Thaiyal Nayaki, the name by which the Consort of Shiva is known in this temple. The idea is that the child Muthukumaraswami will be safe with His mother, after the exhausting day of processions.

At midnight, Murugan is anointed with fragrant substances, and adorned with flower garlands and is offered milk, ghee rice and fruits, and then an aradhana is done. After this puja for Muthukumaraswami, midnight puja is done for Thaiyal Nayaki and Vaidyanathaswami. Those who have no children worship Muthukumaraswami and are blessed with progeny.

INBRIEF

Oil India reports hydrocarbon discovery in its block in Libya

State-owned Oil India has reported an oil and gas recovery from its exploration block in Libya. The oil and gas explorer holds 25% participating interest in the consortium, which also includes IndianOil, for the onshore exploration block Area 95/96 in Ghadmames Basin of south-western Libya. The block holds eight exploratory wells, with drilling of five wells completed and four reporting discoveries between 2012 and 2014.

ONGC okays JV with MRPL, OPaL on petrochemicals

State-owned explorer ONGC said it had approved the formation of a joint venture company with subsidiaries Mangalore Refinery Pvt. Ltd. (MRPL) and ONGC Petro additions Ltd. (OPaL) integrating the petrochemical marketing divisions of the companies. ONGC would hold 50% stake in the joint venture, with the rest being divided equally among the two subsidiaries, it informed the bourses on Monday. "The joint venture company will reduce costs and increase revenue through improved pricing mechanism, logistics and grade optimisation and production of speciality grades," MRPL said adding, "Creation of the joint venture company will also open an opportunity for undertaking third-party sales considering the import dependency of the nation in certain petrochemicals."

SEBI urged to probe ₹275 cr. fund diversion in slum project

A Mumbai-based complainant has urged the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to investigate alleged fund diversion, investor cheating and money laundering involving more than ₹275 crore in a Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SEA) project at Khot Dongri in Malad East. The complaint filed by Nikesh Raghani relates to a redevelopment project under the SRA scheme at Rani Sati Marg, on about 5,600 sq. metres. It names Shah Housecon Pvt. Ltd., B Right Real Estate Ltd., B Right promoter Sanjay N. Shah, Mansukh Shah and Akash Shah of Shah Housecon, and Premji Shah of Royal Realtors Landmark Pvt. Ltd. as beneficiaries.

Fertilizer security strong, stable, well-managed: Centre

For Kharif 2026, the Ministry of Fertilizers has assessed requirement of 390.54 LMT, the current available stock of 190 LMT is 49% of the requirement, says Additional Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid criticism by the Opposition that the Centre had failed to ensure availability of cooking gas and fertilisers, the Union Fertilizers Ministry said here on Monday that the country's Fertilizer security remained "strong, stable, and well-managed," with availability consistently exceeding requirement across all major Fertilizers.

Clearing the air: Ms. Sharma said a total of 190.21 LMT of fertilizers was available, compared with 169.24 LMT last year. R. VENGADESH

'Prices unchanged'

Addressing an inter-ministerial briefing on the impact of the recent developments in West Asia on the availability and production of Fertilizers, Aparna S. Sharma, Additional Secretary, Department of Fertilizers, said retail prices of Urea, Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Triple Superphosphate (TSP) would remain unchanged at ₹266.5, ₹1,350 and ₹1,300 per bag respectively.

The overall stock position of Fertilizers in the country is improved, with urea stock of 71.58 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) as of now compared with 70.67 LMT on the same day last year.

DAP stock remains at 22.35 LMT, compared with 15.07 LMT last year. 57.56 LMT of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), and Potassium (K) Fertilizers are available.

Last year, the stock was 44.49 LMT. Stock of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) is 26.26 LMT. This was 26.14 LMT last year. 12.46 LMT of Muriate of potash (MOP) is available, compared with 12.87 LMT last year, on the same date.

Ms. Sharma said a total of 190.21 LMT of Fertilizers was available, compared with 169.24 LMT last year.

For Kharif 2026, the Ministry has assessed Fertilizer requirement of 390.54 LMT and the current available stock of 190 LMT is 49% of the requirement.

The Ministry said this was significantly higher than the usual level of about 33%. "This reflects improved planning, advance stocking, and efficient logistics management by the government," the Additional Secretary said.

She added that issues relating to natural gas availability for domestic urea production had also been addressed, with steady supply being maintained to Fertilizer plants and additional LNG/RLNG being arranged as required.

"At present -97% LNG/RLNG is available with Fertilizer plants. Most of the urea plants are running at optimum level," she said.

India secured 13.07 LMT Urea in the global urea tender in February and now the government has diversified import sources and secured 25 LMT of urea through global tenders.

Govt. doesn't foresee any requirement for importing petrol or diesel, says Ministry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government does not foresee any situation where the country may be required to import petrol and diesel, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) told reporters at the inter-ministerial briefing on West Asia Monday.

HPCL asserted on Monday that fuel availability in A.P. was adequate and stable.

Responding to a query on the availability of stocks, the senior official told reporters, "As far as the supply of diesel and petrol in the country is concerned, I want to re-emphasise we have sufficient stocks. Sometimes because of the panic buying, there may be an issue but then that issue is taken on priority and is resolved." "We do not foresee any situation where we have to go for import of petrol or diesel," she added.

'Panic buying'

Concerns over availability of the retail fuels, that is, petrol and diesel, and a potential increase in prices have led to panic buying. Last week, the government had refuted assertions about considering any increase in prices of the two retail fuels.

In fact, *The Hindu* had reported earlier in the day that several retail outlets in Andhra Pradesh were facing logistical issues in replenishing stocks only every two days because of the panic buying. This led to certain outlets putting up 'No Stock' boards.

Addressing the same at the inter-ministerial briefing here, Ms. Sharma informed that there had been instances of "exceptional growth" in demand in certain areas. "We have observed exceptional growth in certain areas like 30-33% in HSD sales. That is the reason certain retail outlets have faced the [stock] situation," she stated, adding, "We are monitoring the situation, and I am sure by today evening, all the stocks would be available at all the retail outlets."

Additionally, State-owned oil-marketing company Hindustan Petroleum asserted on Monday evening that fuel availability in Andhra Pradesh was "adequate and stable."

'Temporary surge'

It said a "temporary surge" in demand was observed in the previous two to three days because of panic buying of petrol and increased consumption of diesel with the ongoing agricultural season.

"This has led to higher-than-normal sales at retail outlets," the refiner posted on social media, adding, "For petrol, the February average sales were 1.8 thousand kilolitres (TKL), which increased to 2.46 TKL on April 25, and 2.35 TKL on April 26. Similarly, for diesel (HSD), the February average of 2.37 TKL rose to 3.36 TKL on April 25, 2026, and 3.12 TKL on April 26."

Sun Pharma to buy U.S. firm Organon in $11.75 bn all-cash deal

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries said it agreed to buy all outstanding shares of U.S. firm Organon for $14/share in an all-cash transaction at an enterprise value (EV) of $11.75 billion.

A global leader in women's health, Organon's portfolio includes more than 70 products across women's health and general medicines, including biosimilars, commercialised across 140 countries.

This global footprint is supported by six manufacturing facilities across the EU and emerging markets.

On successful consummation of the transaction, Sun is poised to be among the top 25 global pharmaceutical firms with a combined revenue of $12.4 billion, a leading player in established brands and branded generics.

The deal also enables Sun's entry into biosimilars as a top-10 global player.

RBI tightens bad loan rules to align with global norms

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejigged the rules governing classification of bad loans, definition, and recovery, to align with globally-accepted standards, effective April 1, 2027, according to the Master Directions released on Monday.

According to one of the revised directions, if one loan of a borrower with many loans is classified as a non-performing asset (NPA), all the other loans would also be considered so. The basis for classifying a loan as NPA, however, remains at 90 days overdue. An NPA borrower will be considered a "standard asset" only "on repayment of entire arrears of interest and principal pertaining to all the credit facilities," as per the revised norms.

The new regulation also directs banks to establish automated systems to identify NPAs.

TRAI attempts to promote public WiFi hotspots, again

NEWS ANALYSIS

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Since at first it did not succeed, TRAI's trying again. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) came out with a consultation paper seeking a response to the question it asked in 2016: how can public WiFi hotspots take off? As the three private telcos steadily implement tariff hikes, this may be a timely shot at a familiar problem for the government.

Public hotspots have been beset by many issues. For one, WiFi access/gigabyte is far cheaper than even Indian mobile data prices but mobile data is still pretty inexpensive, constraining demand at scale. A second issue is telcos and Internet service providers' aggressive campaign against public WiFi, by charging them enterprise-leased line rates costing lakhs a year, pricing out small shops where access points can make a difference.

Hotspot ID friction

But the bigger issue may be is the government's insistence on complete visibility of the identity of every individual connecting to a WiFi hotspot with an OTP or some other form of ID verification. This norm was put in place in 2009 and has no equals in most

Public hotspots have been beset by many issues.

of the world. The 2009 requirements followed terrorist attacks in Ahmedabad and Mumbai. but their utility in signals intelligence and combating crime is questionable.

TRAI's paper moots a "super-aggregator" to facilitate "inter-hotspot roaming" and "a centralised-platform-for-authentication" authentification.

ISP pushback

Further centralisation and more efficient surveillance of WiFi hotspots has been tried. The results speak for themselves. The PM-WANI architecture targeted 10 lakh hotspots under a Public Data Office-type arrangement. To date, less than half that number has been rolled out, four years after the deadline.

Fixed line connections still cost money to build and is usually the post-network build-out generation that leverages the abundance of the networks to support public goods like WiFi hotspots. India had only about 4.6 crore fixed line Internet connections as of March.

The commercial paranoia among licensed operators is still an obstruction. TRAI is asking what commercial sops could be given to shop owners and establishments. Prohibition of leased line-level tariffs for hotspot providers may have eased some deployment friction. The regulator also flagged right-of-way issues and coordination with municipal bodies as a friction point.

Free hotspots

Building WiFi hotspots in India is not comparable with doing so in a developed nation. The issue is deployers want a business case and can't (or won't) generally fold WiFi into other operating costs. WiFi hotspots are usually free elsewhere. This alone distinguishes our hotspot efforts from any other market.

But, persistence is in the interests of the Indian Internet. Mobile networks can get crowded, and offloading heavy usage to conveniently-accessible and negligibly-priced WiFi networks can free up licensed spectrum for mobility. These are sticky issues around which the regulator has held two substantive consultations in the last 10 years already. Perhaps the third TRAI paper is the charm.

CUB Q4 net up at ₹360 cr., opens 1,000th branch

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

City Union Bank, one of the oldest private sector banks in India, reported a 25% growth in net profit during Q4FY 2026. The net profit stood at ₹360 crore compared with ₹288 crore a year earlier, the highest ever for a single quarter.

Total deposits rose 23% to ₹78,308 crore, while total advances climbed to ₹66,699 crore from ₹53,066 crore. The bank also opened 1,000th branch at Ammachathiram in Kumbakonam.

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Under taking & and an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

TENDER NOTICE

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for the following work with Spec. No: PMMTC1-e-22/2026. Name of the Work: Selection of a qualified, experienced and DGCA-compliant Drone Service Provider for drone-based monitoring of transmission line assets covering approx. 23,000 towers / 8,500 KM (400 kV / 220 kV / 132 kV) of APTRANSCO focusing on tower and line corridor inspection including vegetation clearance with validity for 2 years. Date & Time of availability of Tender on e-procurement platform i.e., **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** is on **28.04.2026 @17:00Hrs**. Contact No. **Dy.EE: 9491008564.**

RO.No : GMCC/APTRANSCO/20/26-27 **Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER,TELECOM & IT**

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 9646123323)

Tender Enquiry No. PPR-10/2026 **Dated: 26.04.2026**

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate / intrastate sources viz Generators, Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for Intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 15th May 2026 to 30th September 2026. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.mstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **www.mstcecommerce.com** from 26.04.2026 onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **www.mstcecommerce.com**

1079/12/2026-27/10915 **C 533/26**

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
भारत सरकार, अंतरिक्ष विभाग के तहत स्वायत संस्थान
(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल
Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, Kerala
NAAC द्वारा 'A++' मान्यता प्राप्त / NAAC 'A++' Accredited

पीएचडी कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश जुलाई सत्र - 2026
ADMISSION TO Ph.D. PROGRAMME JULY SESSION - 2026

आवेदन प्रक्रिया केवल ऑनलाइन रूप से ही की जाएगी
Application process will be done ONLINE only

पीएचडी कार्यक्रम में प्रवेश के लिए सूचना नीचे दी गई वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध है।
Notification for admission to Ph.D.programme is available at:
https://admission.iist.ac.in
स्कैन करें/ Scan Here

आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि
Last date to apply: 25th May 2026

जानकारी के लिए / **For Queries: admissions@iist.ac.in**
संपर्क सूत्र / **Contact 0471- 2568477/ 618 (on working days 0900 - 1700 hrs)**

डीन (शैक्षिकी) / **Dean (Academics)**

Government of Rajasthan
National Health Mission, Rajasthan
Department of Medical, Health & Family Welfare, Swasthya Bhawan, Jaipur.
Tel. No. 0141-2225736, E-Mail ID: ce-mh-raj@gov.in

No:- 242 Date:- 20.04.26

Short Term E-NIT No-07 /2026-27 on EPC MODE

Online tenders are invited in prescribed format from experienced contractors registered in Public Works Department/State Government/ Authorized organizations of Central Government/ Central Public Works Department/Department of Posts and Telecommunications/ Railways etc. in appropriate category for Building Construction works on EPC Mode in Medical and Health Department, Rajasthan, who are equivalent to the contractors of appropriate category of Rajasthan Government.

Total number of Works	**01**
Total NIT cost (Rs. in lakhs)	**3360.00**
Date of online download & upload	**21 April 2026 to 30 April 2026 Evening 6:00 PM**
Date of technical Bid opening	**01 May 2026 11:00 AM**

Details related to the tender can be seen on DIPR website www.dipronline.Org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and departmental website http://rajswasthya.nic.in.

UBN:-

S. No.	UBN Number
1	NRH2627WLOB00070

Chief Engineer
Medical and Health
Rajasthan, Jaipur

DIPR/C/7305/2026

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, 2nd Floor, 9th Main Road, Jayanagara South 2nd Block, Bengaluru -560 011.

No. EE/BSCC/TE&Mcell/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 27.04.2026

SECTION I: INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	T.E.C work as per requirement of Bengaluru traffic police for the work of Providing Scientific Humps, HRPC, Lane Dividers, Thermoplastic Paint & other Road Safety Works in Arterial and Sub-Arterial Roads in South Zone. **Appx. Amount put to tender: 159.85 Lakhs (Exclusive of GST), EMD : Rs. 2,40,000/- (Rs. one lakh Through e-payment & remaining as specified in bid document)**

Calendar of Events : (1) Availability of Tender Document in KPPP portal **: 28.04.2026 (2)** Date and time of per-bid meeting : **05.05.2026 at 11:00 Hrs (3)** Last date & time for Queries (only through online): **05.05.2026 at 16:00 Hrs (4)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **11.05.2026 at 16:00 Hrs (5)** Opening of Technical bid : **13.05.2026 after 16:30 Hrs (6)** Opening of Financial bid (if possible) : **14.05.2026 at 11.30 Hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer Traffic Engineering and Mobility Cell, BSCC

WASHINGTON

Britain's King Charles III arrives in the U.S. for a four-day state visit

REUTERS

Britain's King Charles III arrived in the United States on Monday for a four-day state visit, as tensions simmer over the Iran war. The trip by King Charles and Queen Camilla is intended to honour historic ties between the two countries as the U.S. marks its 250th anniversary, according to the U.K. government. AFP

MANAMA

Bahrain revokes citizenship of dozens over Iran-linked activities

AFP

Bahrain's Interior Ministry said on Monday that the kingdom has revoked the citizenship of 69 people for their support of Iran after weeks of Iranian attacks on Gulf states. A top rights group said it was "the first mass revocation of citizenship since 2019". The move comes as Gulf states are on high alert over Iranian infiltration. AFP

BEIJING

China vows countermeasures if EU enacts 'Made in Europe' plan

REUTERS

Beijing slammed on Monday an EU plan aimed to bolster the bloc's industries against competition from China, vowing action if it is enacted. The EU unveiled in March "Made in Europe" rules for firms trying to access public funds in sectors including cars, green tech and steel, obliging them to meet thresholds for EU-made parts. AFP

VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo prays with first woman Anglican leader in historic meet

REUTERS

Catholic leader Pope Leo XIV prayed on Monday in the Vatican with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, and vowed to keep working to overcome differences in a historic meeting with the first female leader of the Church of England and spiritual leader of the global Anglican Communion. AP

Hezbollah rejects Israel-Lebanon direct talks; Aoun pledges to end war

The Lebanese group's chief calls direct talks a 'grave sin' that will destabilise the country; President says those dragging Lebanon into war were committing 'treason'; Israeli attacks killed over 2,500 people, according to Lebanese authorities

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem on Monday rejected Lebanon's planned direct negotiations with Israel, calling them a "grave sin" that will destabilise Lebanon.

Shortly after, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun took a jab at the Iran-backed group, saying those who dragged the country to war were committing "treason".

Lebanon and Israel's U.S. Ambassadors met twice in Washington over the past weeks, the first meetings of their kind in decades, for talks that were rejected by the Hezbollah.

Under occupation: Israeli soldiers walking along a road between destroyed houses in southern Lebanon on Monday. AFP

After the first round of talks, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 10-day ceasefire that came into effect on April 17, later announcing a three-week extension after the second round of talks.

"We categorically reject direct negotiations with Israel, and those in power should know that their actions will not benefit Lebanon or themselves," Mr. Qassem said. He called on authorities to "back down from their grave sin that is putting Lebanon in a spiral of instability".

President hits back

Lebanon's President said that direct negotiations with Israel were aimed at ending the war with Israel.

"My goal is to reach an end to the state of war with Israel, similar to the armistice agreement" of 1949, President Aoun said. The two countries have officially been at war since 1948.

"Was the armistice agreement a humiliation? I assure you that I will not accept reaching a humiliating agreement."

Mr. Aoun said: "What we are doing is not treason. Rather, treason is committed by those who take their country to war to achieve foreign interests".

Lebanese authorities have stated that the goal of the U.S.-led negotiations is to stop the war and secure Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

"These direct negotiations and their outcomes are as if they do not exist for us, and they do not concern us in the slightest," Mr. Qassem said. "We will continue our defensive resistance for Lebanon and its people," he added.

Israeli attacks killed over 2,500 people since the start of war on March 2, according to authorities.

U.S. shooting suspect charged with bid to assassinate Trump

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The man who authorities say tried to storm the White House Correspondents' Association dinner with guns and knives has been charged with the attempted assassination of U.S. President Donald Trump.

He appeared in Washington federal court on Monday to face charges in a chaotic encounter that resulted in shots being fired, Mr. Trump being rushed off the stage and guests ducking for cover underneath their tables.

Cole Tomas Allen, 31, was taken into custody after the shooting on Saturday night. Authorities say an officer wearing a bullet-resistant vest was shot but is expected to recover.

Agents stand alert after loud bangs were heard at the White House Correspondents' dinner in Washington, DC, on Saturday. AFP

"He attempted to assassinate the President of the United States," prosecutor Jocelyn Ballantine said in court.

Mr. Allen left a manifesto with family members referring to himself as the "Friendly Federal Assassin" and discussing plans to target senior Trump administration officials, authorities said.

He also was charged with transport of a firearm and ammunition in interstate commerce and with discharging a firearm during a crime of violence.

Mr. Allen is believed to have travelled by train from California to Chicago and then onto Washington, where he checked himself in as a guest at the hotel where the gala dinner was held, acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said.

(With inputs from Reuters)

Two killed in Ukrainian strike as Russian attack wounds 14

Associated Press
KYIV

A Russian drone attack before dawn on Ukraine's southern city of Odesa wounded 14 people, including two children, authorities said on Monday, in the latest barrage of civilian areas that have been a hallmark of Moscow's full-scale invasion.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian drone strike killed two people in the Russia-occupied part of Ukraine's southern Kherson region, Moscow-installed Governor Vladimir Saldo said on Monday. A man and a woman in their 70s died in the village of Dnipriany, he said.

In Odesa, drones hit residential neighbourhoods and civilian infrastructure, said Serhii Lysak, the head of the city's administration. Russia has repeatedly targeted Odesa, a key Black Sea port for Ukraine, since Moscow launched the war in 2022.

Russia fired nearly 1,900 attack drones, and around 60 missiles at Ukraine over the past week, says Zelenskyy

Five of the wounded, most of them with shrapnel wounds, were hospitalised, according to Oleh Kiper, the head of the regional military administration.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that Russia has fired approximately 1,900 attack drones, nearly 1,400 powerful guided aerial bombs and around 60 missiles of various types at Ukraine over the past week.

Ukraine's wartime development of cutting-edge military technology means that it's intercepting more than 90% of the drones that Russia launches, Mr. Zelenskyy said in an X post. However, Kyiv needs more American-made Patriot air defence missiles, which are able to shoot down Russia's ballistic missiles.

Meanwhile, Ukraine has been assailing oil terminals and refineries in Russia with long-range drones and missiles, aiming to disrupt Moscow's economy.

Merz says Iran 'humiliated' U.S. in rebuke as talks stall

Reuters
BERLIN

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said on Monday Tehran was humiliating the United States and getting their officials to travel to Pakistan and then leave without results, in an unusually abrupt rebuke over the conflict.

"The Iranians are very skilled at negotiating, or rather, very skilful at not negotiating," he said.

"An entire nation is being humiliated by the Iranian leadership, especially by these so-called Revolutionary Guards. And so I hope that this ends as quickly as possible," he said.

China blocks Meta acquisition of AI start-up Manus amid U.S. tech rivalry

Associated Press
HONG KONG

China on Monday blocked U.S. tech giant Meta's acquisition of the artificial intelligence startup Manus, in an unexpected move to reverse a deal that apparently aroused Beijing's concerns about the transfer of advanced technology.

In a one-line statement, China's National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top planning agency, said it was prohibiting a foreign acquisition of Manus and had required all the parties to withdraw from the deal.

The decision by the commission's Office of the Working Mechanism for Security Review of Foreign Investment came after Chinese authorities said they were looking into the deal earlier this year.

Artificial apprehensions: The decision reflects Beijing's concerns about transfer of advanced technology. REUTERS

The commission did not elaborate on the reasons for the ban.

The announcement came less than a month before U.S. President Donald Trump's planned visit to Beijing to meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping in May, in a sign that China's communist leaders are tightening scrutiny of the AI industry amid intensifying geopolitical rivalry with the United States over the technology.

Meta announced in December that it was acquiring Manus, which has Chinese roots but is based in Singapore, in a rare case of a major U.S. tech group buying an AI company with strong links to China. Its deal with Manus, whose "general-purpose" AI agent can perform multistep complex work autonomously, was expected to help expand AI offerings across Meta's platforms.

Meta said on Monday that the Manus transaction "complied fully with applicable law."

"We anticipate an appropriate resolution to the inquiry," the California-based company said in a statement.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

E-Tender Notice No.Y-E-29-2026-27-07 Dated: 20-04-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
Design, Supply, Erection and testing of mobile PSI testing system for 25/ 2x25 kV traction system.	Rs. 8,25,63,571.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11-05-2026**

E-Tender Notice No.Y-E-29-2026-27-08 Dated: 20-04-2026

Description of work	Approx. Value
OHE modification for lift provision on PF 2&3 at Haveri yard.	Rs. 12,37,361.42

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 12-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/56/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **TRD / Mysuru**

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Thanuja.B W/o Sri.Manu.H.P** to bring the notice of the general public that Original Allotment Letter dated.21.03.2022, bearing No.KHBKRS03541 issued by Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) is missing /lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing LIG **Site No.366,** Property ID No. 152900202400321545, Property No. 366/LIG, formed by KHB in Sy Nos.21, 22 and others, and site measuring West: **9.00 Meter** and North to South: **12.00 meter,** situated at **Rayasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagar District,** and bounded on :-

East by : Site No.365 LIG, West by : Site No.367 LIG, North by : Road, South by : Site No.347 LIG.

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.Y-E-29-2026-27-10 Dated: 21-04-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of Rigid Overhead Catenary System (ROCS) on Railway line near Mysuru Airport.	Rs. 3,54,00,000.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 13-05-2026**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/65/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 **TRD / Mysuru**

Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that, on behalf of our Clients, we are investigating the right, title, and interest in relation to the property described in the Schedule below **("Schedule Property"),** which is owned by **M/s. Kinfotech Private Limited,** a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 **("Owner").** In addition, certain family members of the erstwhile owner are also claiming an interest in the said property (collectively referred to as the "Claimants").

Any person other than the aforesaid Owner and Claimants, including but not limited to individuals, companies, firms, banks, financial institutions, government authorities, or any other entity, who claim or assert any right, title, interest, share, claim, demand, or encumbrance of whatsoever nature in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, whether by way of sale, lease, mortgage, charge, lien, possession, inheritance, easement, succession, agreement, court order, or otherwise, are hereby required to submit their claims or objections in writing, together with supporting documentary evidence, to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within **twelve (12) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

If no such objection or claim is received within the stipulated time, it shall be deemed that no person other than the Owner and the Claimants have any right, interest, or claim in respect of the Schedule Property. All rights, interests, and claims, if any, not notified as stated above shall be treated as waived and unenforceable, and the Owner's title to the Schedule Property shall be considered clear and marketable.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the undeveloped converted land bearing Survey **No. 110** measuring **3 Acres 30 Guntas,** situated at **Doddathogur Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District** and bounded on the:

East by : Survey No. 112, land belongs to Muninanjappa and Narasimha Reddy,
West by : Road and Remaining portion of land of Survey No. 110,
North by : Road and then lake,
South by : Remaining portion of the land in Survey No. 110.

Signed /-
Trust Law Advocates & Solicitors
No.29/11, 1st Floor, Udaya Sahakara Bhavana Mount Joy Road, 1st Main Road, Bengaluru 560004
Phone No. 080 – 29913089/ +91 8050503089
Email Id: narayan@trustlaw.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST OF DOCUMENT

I am issuing this public notice under the instructions of my client **SRI.VIJAY KARTHIKEYAN.M,** S/o Sri.A.P.Manian, that he is the absolute owner of the Property bearing Site No.129, PID No.54-125-129, BBMP EPID No.7175225329, formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Situated at East of Kathriguppe, 4th Phase, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore, Present Corporation No.129, 3rd Main, East of Kathriguppe, 4th Phase, B.S.K.3rd Stage, Bangalore, measuring East to West 12.20 Mtrs., and North to south 7.60 Mtrs., in all measuring 92.72Sq.Mtrs., and bounded on the :- East by : Road, West by : Site No.161, North by : Site No.130 and South by : Site No.128.

It is hereby informing to the general public that, my client lost/misplaced the original Sale Deed, dated: 13/03/1986, executed by Sri.Wazeer in favour of Sri.K.T.Shashidhar, which was registered as Document No.4138/1985-86, of Book – I, Volume – 1439, Pages: 134 to 136, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, asavanagudi, Bangalore and Power of Attorney, dated: 17/01/2007, executed by Sri.Vijay Karthikeyan.M in favour of Sri.A.P.Manian, with respect to the said property, while taking Xerox in Gandhi Bazaar and presume this was lost somewhere on DVG Road.

My client **SRI.VIJAY KARTHIKEYAN.M** undertaking that he has not pledged the said original document and not availed any loan/ financial/ credit facilities from any person/financial institution/Banks. For future perfection, clarification and to safeguard the legal rights of my client **SRI.VIJAY KARTHIKEYAN.M,** I am issuing this public notice.

In this regard my client has lodged police complaint vide Lost Article Report No.2175244/2026, dated: 27/04/2026, before the jurisdictional Police. If any body found the said document, the same may be handed over at the below mentioned address.

Mrs.M.Manjula, Advocate
No.C-1, 1st Floor, Maruthi Pearl Plaza, D.V.G.Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. Mob : 9945027091.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Group,
ISRO Head Quarters, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru-560094 Phone: 080-2041/2476/5641/5660, Fax No.: 080-2351 3126

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through e-Tendering for the following work:

Title of work	**Annual Maintenance Service Contract for Operation and Maintenance of Civil & PH Systems and Outside Housekeeping works for Antariksh Bhavan, ISRO HQ and E1 type quarters at RT Nagar, Bengaluru**
e-Tender Notice No.	**CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/AMC/01/P/AB/ 2026-27 Dtd: 27.04.2026**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 59.69 Lakhs**
Period of Completion	**Twelve (12) Months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From: 18:10 Hrs on 27.04.2026 To: 23:59 Hrs on 10.05.2026**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 15:30 Hrs on 12.05.2026**
Due date and time for opening of tenders (Techno-commercial Bid)	**16:00 Hrs on 12.05.2026**
EMD	**Rs. 1,19,380/-** (Valid for 180 days)

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer detailed bilingual (Hindi_English) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) and Tender documents may be downloaded from e-tendering website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROHIT VIJAYARAJ ELLUR S/o Ellur Vijayraj R/o Flat No A203 Mahaveer Cygnet 114/1 Kogilu Village Indira Canteen Yelahanka Bengaluru Karnataka–560064 have changed my name to ROHIT ELLUR.

I, Rohith Kanna Kotumukalur Rajesh, S/o Rajesh Kanna R, R/o No. 24A, Vasantha Layout, 1st Cross, Munnekolalu, Bengaluru-560037 have changed my name to Rohith Kanna Rajesh for all purposes by affidavit no. IN-KA41461432114265Y sworn before Yankoba Public Notary dt. 23-04-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SAJEEV Kurup, r/at No.807, Mahaveer Desir, Opp. Railway Station, Chikkabanavara, Bangalore 560090 have changed my minor son name from Divyesh to Divyesh Sajeev Kurup vide affidavit dtd 21.04.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

I, DIMPLE Pirgal, r/at No.1, 4th Cross, Kumara Park West, 4th Block, Near Jaishree Nursing Home, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name as Dimple vide affidavit dtd 21.04.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

I, RADHIKA Srinath Babu, r/at No.826, Srinivasa, 21st Cross, Ideal Homes, R R Nagar, Bangalore 560098 have changed my name as Radhika Srinath vide affidavit dtd 27.04.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, Bluru

SETTING THE STANDARD

Kohli has changed the way people see the sport, says Krunal

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On Virat Kohli becoming the first to reach 9,000-run milestone in IPL, RCB teammate Krunal Pandya said: "Virat is one of the greatest to have played... His achievements have been unbelievable. With his consistency and hunger, he has changed the way people see the sport. He has also been the flag-bearer for fitness culture in India".

BIG BOOST

Starc to be available for Capitals' next game against Royals on Friday

FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

On a bleak day for Delhi Capitals, the silver lining that emerged was that star pacer Mitchell Starc will be available for the side's next outing against Rajasthan Royals in Jaipur on Friday. "He will be available from May 1 as per the NOC he has got from Cricket Australia," DC skipper Axar Patel said on Monday.

IN AND OUT

Mumbai Indians names Maharaj as a replacement for injured Santner

AMOL KARHADKAR

Mumbai Indians has drafted in Keshav Maharaj as a replacement for the injured Mitchell Santner, who has been ruled out of IPL 2026 with a left shoulder injury. Maharaj, a left-arm spinner who has also led South Africa in T20Is, joined the squad ahead of MI's home match on Wednesday against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

SHOWING DISSENT

Raghuvanshi penalised for Code of Conduct breach against LSG

R.V. MOORTHY

KKR's Angkrish Raghuvanshi was fined 20% of his match fee and handed one demerit point for breaching the IPL Code of Conduct during the match against LSG. After being given out for Obstructing The Field, Raghuvanshi was seen striking the boundary cushion with his bat in frustration before throwing helmet into the dugout.

Bhuvneshwar, Hazlewood blow away DC

The two experienced pacers share seven wickets to shoot out the host for 75; defending champion RCB romps home in just the seventh over

IPL-19

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

The venue was Delhi. The format was T20. But at the start of Monday's fixture at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in IPL 2026, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood were so irresistible with the new ball that the proceedings resembled a Test match unfolding on a green deck in Dunedin.

If Bhuvneshwar teased Delhi Capitals' batters with swing from a good length, Hazlewood tormented the opposition with the short delivery. The deadly combination broke the back of the host inside the Power-Play, and made victory for Royal Challengers Bengaluru a matter of formality.

Wreckers-in-chief: Bhuvneshwar began the slide by cleaning up debutant Sahil while Hazlewood signalled the end of the DC innings by yorking Porel. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Procession

Both pacers scalped three wickets each in their opening spells as Capitals were incredulously reduced to eight for six in 3.5 overs, with the scores of the top six reading 0, 1, 1, 0, 5, 0. The record of the lowest total in IPL history – 49 by RCB against Kolkata Knight Riders in 2017 – was in danger for a while, but Abishek Porel and David Miller put together 35 for the seventh wicket to avert that ignominy.

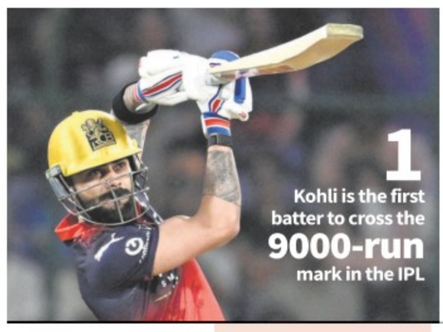
Eventually, Hazlewood finished with figures of 3.3-0-12-4 as DC folded up for 75. The defending champion took just 6.3 overs to clinch a nine-wicket win, leaving Axar Patel and Co. with a lot of soul-searching to do in the coming days.

Heightening the sense of disbelief about the evening was the fact that 529 runs had been scored for the loss of just six wickets across two innings on an adjacent pitch just 48 hours ago. Bhuvneshwar sparked the collapse. With debutant Sahil Parakh on strike in the opening over, the 36-year-old conjured up an inswinging yorker to uproot middle stump. He would also account for Tristan Stubbs and Axar in the third over.

From the other end, Hazlewood was just as spellbinding. Off his first two balls, he dismissed K.L. Rahul and Sameer Rizvi. Rahul was hurried by a bouncer, miscuing a pull to wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma. Rizvi was enticed into a loose drive to a ball wide of off-stump.

The others crumbled predictably like a pack of cards, with Hazlewood fittingly ending Capitals' misery by cleaning up Porel with a yorker.

Impact Index



1 Kohli is the first batter to cross the **9000-run** mark in the IPL

1 DC lost six wickets with less than 10 runs on the board, a first in the league

4 Sahil (18y 324d) is the fourth youngest opener to be dismissed for a duck (Suryavanshi 14y 35d; Mhatre 17y 295d; Jaiswal 18y 283d)

16 The number of deliveries DC took to lose its first five wickets. RR had lost half its side in 18 balls against SRH earlier this season

29 Bhuvneshwar's tally of wickets in the opening over. Only Boult (32) has more

50 Hazlewood's wicket of Rahul was the Australian's 50th in RCB colours

129 The number of wicket-taking innings for Bhuvneshwar, behind only Chahal (132)

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS
Sahil Parakh b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(2b)*, K.L. Rahul c Jitesh b Hazlewood 1 *(3b)*, Nitish Rana c Padikkal b Hazlewood 1 *(9b)*, Sameer Rizvi c Jitesh b Hazlewood 0 *(1b)*, Tristan Stubbs c Padikkal b Bhuvneshwar 5 *(3b, 1x4)*, Axar Patel c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 0 *(3b)*, Abishek Porel **(Impact Player for Parakh)** b Hazlewood 30 *(33b, 3x4)*, David Miller c Jitesh b Rasikh 19 *(18b, 3x4)*, Kyle Jamieson lbw b Krunal 12 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Kuldeep Yadav b Suyash 3 *(11b)*, Dushmantha Chameera (not out) 0 *(3b)*; Extras (w-4): 4; Total (in 16.3 overs): 75.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Sahil, 0.2 overs), 2-2 (Rahul, 1.1), 3-2 (Rizvi, 1.2), 4-7 (Stubbs, 2.1), 5-7 (Axar, 2.4), 6-8 (Nitish, 3.5), 7-43 (Miller, 8.6), 8-62 (Jamieson, 12.3), 9-71 (Kuldeep, 15.3).

RCB BOWLING
Bhuvneshwar 3-0-5-3, Hazlewood 3.3-0-12-4, Rasikh 2-0-21-1, Shepherd 2-0-21-0, Suyash 4-1-7-1, Krunal 2-0-9-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Jacob Bethell **(Impact Player for Suyash)** c Natarajan b Jamieson 20 *(11b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 23 *(15b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal (not out) 34 *(13b, 3x4, 3x6)*; Total (for one wkt. in 6.3 overs): 77.

FALL OF WICKET
1-26 (Bethell, 2.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Jamieson 3-0-42-1, Chameera 2-0-18-0, Axar 1-0-5-0, Natarajan 0.3-0-12-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Hazlewood.
RCB won by nine wickets with 81 balls to spare.

Next assignment

RCB: April 30 vs. GT Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

DC: May 1 vs. RR Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

We have to forget this day and move on: Axar

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' forlorn skipper Axar Patel wants his team to try and move on after it suffered a nine-wicket rout at the hands of Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL 2026 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday.

On a warm evening where Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood caused mayhem under lights, DC was shot out for a paltry 75 in 16.3 overs. According to Axar, the run-fest at this venue just two days ago, when Punjab Kings chased down a record 265, may have had an effect on the host's batters.

"What happened in the last game, when we lost after scoring 264, may have had an effect. There was hesitation from the batters. Other than that, it was bad luck. The batters just kept getting out within a few balls. We will just have to forget this day and move on," Axar said at the post-match press conference. "Bhuvneshwar and Hazlewood are world-class bowlers who held a good length."

With DC's fans expressing their anger after an abject display, the 32-year-old pleaded for support for his players. "If the fans are disheartened, the players are just as disheartened. This is the time for the fans to support the team. The players are down. At this time, it is very important for the fans to lend their support and trust the players," he stated.

Axar greets Kohli after the game. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Meanwhile, RCB, with six wins in eight games, is hitting the right notes. Asked if the defending champion is the hot favourite to go all the way, Krunal Pandya said: "You can't think too far ahead in this tournament. There are six more games to go in the league stage. We want to just continue doing the right things more often than not, stick to the process and look to get the desired results".

Business as usual: RCB star Kohli cracks a joke with Nitish Rana and Kuldeep after finishing off the chase. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Opening salvos in focus as PBKS hosts RR

Sahil Mathur
NEW CHANDIGARH

Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Priyansh Arya, and Prabhsimran Singh – in any other era, at least two of them would've been opening for India in T20Is. Yet, none of them is currently.

But all eyes will be on these dashing openers when Punjab Kings hosts Rajasthan Royals in an IPL-19 clash at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Tuesday.

Jaiswal and Suryavanshi have struck at 192.45 while opening, just behind Priyansh and Prabhsimran's 215.53 strike-rate. The two pairs have been monumental to their teams' performances so far. While PBKS has been unbeaten in seven games, RR has won five out of eight.

Apart from these four, Cooper Connolly has done well to establish himself in his debut IPL season with PBKS. He's followed by Shreyas Iyer, who has been just as impressive. But beyond that, there's inconsistency.

PBKS assistant coach Brad Haddin, however, feels that the lower-order batters haven't had a lot of opportunities to face enough deliveries. "Our top-order has been super dynamic, and the rest have contributed in roles that win games. It might not be a 70 or 80, but maybe a 15 off six balls to give us the momentum we need. They're doing everything the game requires."

For Royals, the bowlers – led by Jofra Archer (13 wickets), Ravi Bishnoi (11), and Nandre Burger (8) – have compensated for the batting vulnerabilities in the lower middle-order.

"Our bowling unit has been doing well. The new-ball bowlers have been picking wickets consistently, and I'm confident they can keep delivering," RR quick Sandeep Sharma said. On Tuesday, it will be a hitting contest between the openers. RR captain Parag would be hoping to get the toss right, utilise swing on offer and force PBKS to set a total, else things could go out of RR's control.

Today's match

PUNJAB KINGS vs. RAJASTHAN ROYALS

New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **30**
PBKS **13** | RR **17**

PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by **10 runs**, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

> The job's not done. We're halfway through the tournament, and it's about playing your best cricket at the back-end
>
> **BRAD HADDIN**
> PBKS assistant coach

Bowlers assemble: Royals pacer Sandeep and Kings leggie Chahal will be tasked with restricting the batters. R.V. MOORTHY

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	7	**6**	0	1	**13**	1.333
Royal Challengers	8	**6**	2	0	**12**	1.919
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	**5**	3	0	**10**	0.815
Rajasthan Royals	8	**5**	3	0	**10**	0.602
Gujarat Titans	8	**4**	4	0	**8**	-0.475
Chennai Super Kings	8	**3**	5	0	**6**	-0.121
Delhi Capitals	8	**3**	5	0	**6**	-1.060
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	**2**	5	1	**5**	-0.751
Mumbai Indians	7	**2**	5	0	**4**	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	8	**2**	6	0	**4**	-1.106

Indian men blank Australia, storm into the quarterfinals

THOMAS & UBER CUP

Press Trust of India
HORSENS (DENMARK)

India sealed a place in the Thomas Cup Finals quarterfinals with a 5-0 sweep of Australia in a Group A tie here on Monday.

India and China occupy the top spots in the group. The 2022 champion had opened with a 4-1 win over Canada, while China blanked Australia 5-0 and beat Canada 4-1 earlier in the day. The two sides will clash in their final group tie on Wednesday to decide the group topper.

Paris Olympian and Commonwealth Games champion Lakshya Sen set the tone with a 21-14, 21-16 win over Ephraim Stephen Sam. US Open champion Ayush Shetty, who recently finished runner-up at the Badminton Asia Championships, doubled the advantage with a 21-8, 21-6 victory over Shrey Dhand.

The top pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the Asian Games champions, made it 3-0 by defeating Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16 to clinch the tie.

H.S. Prannoy, a bronze medallist at the 2023 World Championships and Asian Games, extended the lead with a 21-11, 21-17 win over Rishi Honda Boopathy in under 30 minutes.

In the second doubles, Hariharan Amsakarunan and M.R. Arjun outplayed Andika Ramadiansyah and Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-12, 21-10 as India completed a flawless outing.

Easily done: Chirag and Satwik won in quick time. X@BAI_MEDIA

China takes lead
Wang Zhiyi beat P.V. Sindhu 2l-16, 19-21, 21-19 to give China a 1-0 lead against India in the Uber Cup

The result: Thomas Cup:

India bt Australia 5-0 [Lakshya Sen bt Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-14, 21-16; Ayush Shetty bt Shrey Dhand 21-8, 21-6; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Rizky Hidayat & Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16; H.S. Prannoy bt Rishi Honda Boopathy 21-11, 21-17; Hariharan Amsakarunan & M.R. Arjun bt Andika Ramadiansyah & Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-12, 21-10].

INBRIEF

Villarreal continues fine show; Milan, Juventus split points

Villarreal, *in pic,* continued its strong season with a 2-1 victory over Celta Vigo to tighten the grip on third place, five points clear of fourth-place Atletico Madrid, in the LaLiga. AC Milan and Juventus played out a goalless draw at the San Siro, a second stalemate between the sides in Serie A this season, with both clubs on course for a place in next season's Champions League.

The results: LaLiga: Real Oviedo 1 (Chaira 76) lost to Elche 2 (Bigas 6, Villar 16); Osasuna 2 (Garcia 80, Catena 90+9) bt Sevilla 1 (Maupay 69); Villarreal 2 (Moreno 2-pen, Pepe 29) bt Celta Vigo 1 (Iglesias 73-pen).
Serie A: AC Milan 0 drew with Juventus 0.

Sindhu gets a full voting position on the BWF council

P.V. Sindhu has assumed a full voting position on the council of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) following her election as chair of the BWF Athletes' Commission, according to a release. As a voting member of the council, Sindhu will participate in discussions and decisions on matters that shape the future of the sport, bringing the perspectives and experiences of elite athletes directly into the heart of global badminton leadership.

Tapan and Harschit emerge all-around champions

Tapan Mohanty and Harschit Damodaran won the men's senior and junior all-around gold respectively in the National artistic gymnastics championships in Bhubaneswar.

The results: Men: Senior: Individual: All-around: 1. Tapan Mohanty (Odi) 73.433, 2. Yogeshwar Singh (Har) 72.667, 3. Shreyas Chaudhari (SSCB) 71.467. **Team:** 1. Railways 220.533, 2. Services 211.767, 3. Maharashtra 211.303. **Junior: Individual: All-around:** 1. Harschit Damodaran (UP) 73.700, 2. Akshat Bajaj (Del) 69.866, 3. Sk. Nabhigh Ali (WB) 69.767.

Hridoy's half-century helps Bangladesh beat New Zealand

Tawhid Hridoy's half-century led Bangladesh to a six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first T20I in Chattogram on Monday. Hridoy finished unbeaten on 51 (27b, 4x4, 3x6).

The scores: New Zealand 182/6 in 20 overs (Clarke 51, Cleaver 51, Kelly 39, Rishad 2/32) lost to Bangladesh 183/4 in 18 overs (Hridoy 51 n.o., Shamim 31 n.o., Sodhi 2/40); **Toss:** Bangladesh; **PoM:** Hridoy.

Delhi HC allows AITA's 2024 poll results to stand

The Delhi High Court on Monday allowed the results of the All India Tennis Association (AITA) elections held on September 28, 2024, to stand, but directed that the elected body will function only as an interim arrangement under the supervision of a court-appointed Administrator, former Chief Justice Gita Mittal. In the order, Justice Mini Pushkarna made it clear that while the outcome of the 2024 elections will not be disturbed at this stage, the executive committee will operate in a limited capacity and remain subject to the oversight of Justice (Retd.) Mittal. It means that Chintan Parikh, who is from the Gujarat State Association, is the new AITA President while Maharashtra's Sunder Iyer is General Secretary. Dinesh Arora from Punjab Association is treasurer while KSLTA's Sunil Yajman is one of the joint secretaries.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

What does Kvaratskhelia have in store for Bayern?

PSG's last-four stage clash against the German giant will be a litmus test for the 25-year-old, who has scored eight goals in the campaign; the winger says that he has 'really improved in defence'

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Associated Press
PARIS

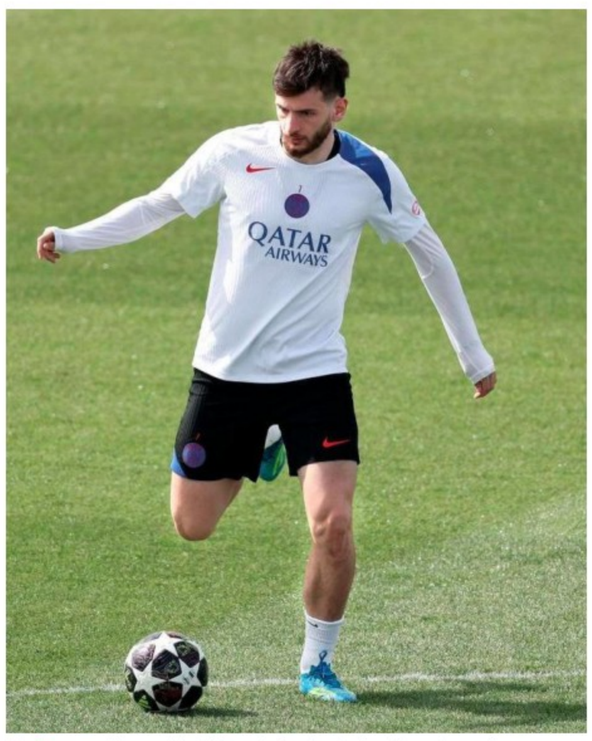
Bayern Munich must find a way to stop Paris Saint-Germain winger Khvicha Kvaratskhelia when the sides meet in the first leg of their Champions League semifinal on Tuesday.

Monaco, Chelsea and Liverpool could not.

Kvaratskhelia has scored eight goals so far – including another fine solo effort against Liverpool in the first leg of its quarterfinal. That's twice as many as teammate Ousmane Dembele, the current men's Ballon d'Or holder.

"He is such an important player for us," PSG coach Luis Enrique said. "Not just for his abilities but for what he transmits as a player."

Kvaratskhelia's performance against Liverpool, all darting runs and jinking feet, led the British press to compare the 25-year-old Georgia star's style of play to that of George Best, the late Manchester United great known for his extraordinary dribbling, amazing balance and spectacular goals.



Main man: Kvaratskhelia's role for the defending champion cannot be understated in the semifinal against Bayern. AFP

He scored with a brilliant curler against Chelsea in the first leg of the last 16, then followed up with another goal in the away leg as PSG routed the London side 8-2 on aggregate. Prior to that, it was a goal midway through the second half that turned the tide PSG's way in a tough playoff against Monaco.

He has 16 goals overall this season for Ligue 1 leader PSG, beating his previous best of 14 when starring for Serie A winner Napoli in the 2022-23 season.

Kvaratskhelia's arrival from Napoli in the January transfer window last season coincided with Dembele's rise in form and kick-started the club's run to a first Champions League trophy.

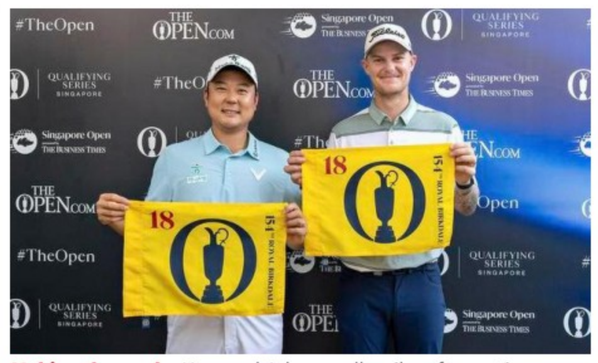
"I don't have to work hard with Dembele. He is capable of doing everything on the pitch and he makes my job easier," Kvaratskhelia said. "That's why he won the Ballon d'Or and I think he can win many more."

Enrique signed him at the second attempt and it's now obvious why he was so keen to do so.

Aside from his dribbling, crossing and shooting from distance, Kvaratskhelia is also incredibly hard-working in defence, constantly tracking back and tackling. Effectively, this gives PSG two players in one: a superb winger who defends remarkably well as a makeshift fullback.

"I have really improved in defence with Luis (Enrique)," Kvaratskhelia said. "In this team we need to defend like proper defenders".

Semifinal schedule (first leg)
Paris Saint-Germain vs. Bayern Munich *(12.30 a.m. on Wednesday)*; Atletico Madrid vs. Arsenal *(12.30 a.m. on Thursday)*



Making the grade: Ham and John are all smiles after getting an entry to The Open Championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ham thrilled to be playing at The Open

GOLF

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

Jeongwoo Ham was a largely unknown commodity outside South Korea before he teed off at the Singapore Open, but the 31-year-old left the Sentosa shores only after making a mark with his maiden title on the Asian Tour.

There was double delight for Ham as the first-place finish in the International Series tournament also earned him a spot, along with second-placed Cameron John, at The Open Championship.

"Watching Korean and other Asian players at The Open... it was something that I could only be envious of. I did not expect the dream to turn into reality. The Open will be a new experience for me. I will go there to have a lot of fun," said Ham, who was competing in an Asian Tour event outside Korea for only the eighth time.

The crown was a fruit of the remarkable consistency that Ham showed over the four days.

"In the last two years, I have not been playing too well, so this victory will act as a motivation for me. It tells me that if I prepare well, I can win tournaments. I am proud that I have shown improvement with this win," he added.

Having come out of his comfort zone and climbed the ladder, Ham is now keen on putting on a show at home as well. "I have already won once (this year), so I want to play in Korea in front of our fans and win there too. I will just ride with the tide."

Ham may have just found his second wind.

(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of The International Series)

Leading by example: Wolvaardt continued her good form to star in South Africa's victory. X@PROTEASWOMENCSA

India falters in chase, loses final T20I as SA wraps up series 4-1

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
BENONI

India suffered yet another batting meltdown in a modest 156-run chase as South Africa rode on skipper Laura Wolvaardt's sublime unbeaten 92 (56b, 11x4, 2x6) to clinch a convincing 23-run win and seal the T20I series 4-1 in dominant fashion.

Wolvaardt, who had already notched up two fifties and a century in the series, struck 11 fours and two sixes in her 56-ball knock, carrying her bat despite wickets falling around her.

Late flourish
Her late flourish – two sixes off the final two balls – lifted South Africa past the 150-mark after a middle-overs slowdown.

In reply, India was restricted to 132 for eight, with the experienced batters once again failing to deliver.

Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur laboured to 22 off 28 balls, while Shafali Verma (4), Jemimah Rodrigues (1) and Deepti Sharma (8) fell cheaply without much resistance.

It was left to Bharti Fulmali to provide some fight with a counter-attacking 40 off 30 balls (4x4, 2x6), but India's middle-overs stagnation following a poor start proved costly.

South Africa's bowlers were disciplined throughout, with Nonkululeko Mlaba leading the charge with an impressive two for 15, including a maiden, and accounting for Harmanpreet. Nadine de Klerk also picked up two wickets.

It was a reality check for the Women's ODI champions India ahead of the T20 World Cup in two months' time, as frequent changes in the XI and lack of consistency hurt the campaign.

The scores: South Africa 155/6 in 20 overs (Wolvaardt 92 n.o, Deepti 2/37) bt India 132/8 in 20 overs (Bharti 40, de Klerk 2/26). **Toss:** SA; **PoM & PoS:** Wolvaardt.

Mirabai likely to miss Asian c'ships

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Mirabai Chanu is set to miss the Asian weightlifting championships, to be held at Gandhinagar from May 12 to 17, due to a shoulder issue, according to reliable sources.

Mirabai had picked up the shoulder issue during the National at Modinagar earlier this year.

Even though she is on the path of recovery, there is strong apprehension that pushing her to cut weight for three competitions in five months to compete in 48kg may take a toll.

Skipping the home Asian championships will save Mirabai, who will turn 32 on August 8, some hardships in a packed calendar.

Vaishali to play in inaugural WR Women's Chess Tour

Sports Bureau

R. Vaishali will play in the inaugural edition of the newly launched WR Women's Chess Tour, to be held in Tokyo on June 6 and 7.

Big names
The tour, which aims to raise the profile of women's chess and position in global events like the WTA, will feature big names.

Vaishali, who recently won the Candidates tournament in Cyprus, to become the challenger for the World title match, and former World champions Alexandra Kosteniuk and Antoaneta Stefanova are among the first players to be confirmed for the tour.

"Chess is immensely popular in some Asian countries, but still relatively small in Japan, and we plan to change that," said Wadim Rosenstein, who is sponsoring the tour through his company WR Group Holding. I deeply care about the development of women's competitions, and bringing these events to prime locations around the world is a good way to achieve that goal."

Flying high: Vaishali won the recent Candidates tournament to become the challenger for the World title match. FILE PHOTO

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Champion: The Young Blues Elite FC squad with its reward. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Young Blues Elite FC takes the honours
BENGALURU: Young Blues Elite FC emerged champion of the KSFA Women's A-div league championship.
Parikrma FC finished runner-up, and the two teams will be promoted to the Karnataka Women's League.
Special awards: Best goal-keeper: Ketaki Parag Gulhane (YBEFC); **best defender:** Judith Sonali Jhon (Parikrma FC); **best midfielder:** Nilavoli Sethurayar (YBEFC); **top-scorer:** Arti Munda (Parikrma, nine goals).

Beagles posts win
Beagles defeated Dharwad District-A 53-48 in a boys' match of State sub-junior basketball championship on Monday.
In the girls' category, Mysore District-A overcame Madya District 47-26.

Karnataka clubbed with West Bengal, Odisha, Lakshadweep
Karnataka has been clubbed with West Bengal, Odisha and Lakshadweep in the Swami Vivekananda U-20 men's National football championship in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh, from May 2 to 24.
Karnataka, the runner-up in the inaugural edition in 2024, will take on West Bengal in its opener.

Aadya and Shreya win titles
MYSURU: WCM Aadya Gowda of Bengaluru, with eight points from nine rounds, and Shreya Rajesh of Bengaluru Urban, with 7.5 points (tie-breaker score 52), clinched the under-13 Open and girls' titles in the State chess championships on Sunday. The winners and runners-up will represent Karnataka in the National championships in Puducherry in September.
Top 3 placings: Open: 1. Aadya Gowda (8 points); 2. Ishaan Bhansali (7.5); 3. Samanth Nataraj Naidu (7, 52.5). **Girls:** 1. Shreya Rajesh (7.5, 52); 2. Indusheetala (7.5, 51.5); 3. Aadya Ranganath (7.5, 48.5).

Shooting League of India will happen: Deo

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

The much-vaunted Shooting League of India may have been repeatedly delayed but National Rifle Association of India president Kalikesh Singh Deo is insistent that it would be held sooner than later.

"There is a challenge for every sport today on how to make it more commercially marketable, more television and viewer friendly and attract more fans.

"There may be a delay in the franchise-based league, first of its kind in the world, but we will make sure the SLI happens and is a success," Deo said on the sidelines of an event to mark the 75th anniversary of the NRAI.

The NRAI also unveiled a special commemorative logo and launched a mobile application for athlete management.